FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

25 JUNE 1985

Hostage Crisis; Lebanon

The Amal movement has stated that it may abandon its role as a mediator in 7 to 10 days if there are no developments in the situation, Beirut radio announced early 25 June. Amal leader Nabih Birri had earlier added another condition for the release of the TWA airliner passengers, demanding that the U.S. fleet stay away from Lebanese shores, according to the radio. He claimed that a U.S. pledge signed in 1982 commits the United States to asking Israel for the release of the Lebanese detainees.

Meanwhile, Jerusalem radio viewed Israeli Prime Minister Shim'on Peres' proposal for U.S.-Israeli cooperation in the crisis as an indication that Israel may be willing to release its Shi'ite prisoners in response to a U.S. appeal, adding that the release of detainees will continue in the wake of the freeing of 31 Lebanese on 24 June. Preparations are underway for the release of several dozen more detainees from 'Atlit, according to the Tel Aviv paper *HA'ARETZ*.

Iranian Majlis Speaker 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani commented on the hostage crisis at a Damascus news conference reported by SANA, reaffirming Iran's denial of any involvement in the hijacking and stating that he has no knowledge of the hijackers' identity. The Majlis speaker said his talks with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad produced "good, positive results." During his stay in Damascus, Hashemi-Rafsanjani held meetings with prominent Lebanese and Syrian clergymen, members of Hezbollah and the Amal movement, and leaders of the Palestine National Salvation Front (PNSF), according to Tehran radio. Iran's condemnation of the sectarian feuds in Beirut was a major theme of his remarks and he told the PNSF leaders that it is a "crime" to take away weapons from those Palestinians who want to fight Israel, adding that Iran will give "top priority" to the Palestine question as soon as the war with Iraq ends.

As for Syria's position on the hostage crisis, Damascus radio cited an *AL-BA'TH* editorial that condemned the hijacking but warned the United States against attempting a military operation "using the hijacked airliner as a pretext."

In other developments in Beirut, Al-Murabitun groups continued to attack Amal movement positions 24 June, Voice of Lebanon radio reported. The radio also linked a Syrian summons for Nabih Birri to visit Damascus 25 June with Syria's efforts to reconcile the feuding factions in West Beirut. Meanwhile, Internal Security Forces began deploying inside the Palestinian camps early 25 June, Beirut radio noted.

Syria-USSR

A Damascus radio commentary on President al-Asad's visit to Moscow denied reports of Soviet-Syrian differences on the Palestinian issue, contending that the Soviet Union and Syria hold "identical" views on "the moves by 'Arafat and his gang" and on U.S. attempts to drag Jordan and the PLO into a new Camp David agreement. Al-Asad's visit was a "great and important achievement," the radio added, and its results will "soon emerge on the ground."

Jordan

Amman's *SAWT AL-SHA'B* denied a recent Kuwaiti press report about the presence of Egyptian forces in Jordan, viewing it as one of several "fabricated and false" stories in the Arab press concerning military activities in Jordan.

Egypt

Relations With Sudan — Foreign Ministry official Usamah al-Baz reaffirmed Egypt's opposition to extraditing former Sudanese President Ja'far Numayri in remarks cited by MENA, stressing that President Husni Mubarak is adhering to Egypt's tradition of refusing to surrender political refugees "under any circumstances." Al-Baz, who was speaking in Khartoum after delivering a message from Mubarak to Sudanese leader General 'Abd al-Rahman Siwar al-Dhahab, affirmed Egypt's view that neither Numayri's extradition nor any other matter that could affect bilateral relations should be raised, and he added that Egypt will "not deal with" ideas that "seek to incite an estrangement" between Egypt and Sudan. The Egyptian official stated that dialogue and consultations are continuing between the two countries, which are committed to their "eternal and fateful relationship," though he noted that integration is "not vital," being "only one aspect of this relationship, and not its crux."

Relations With Iraq — Iraqi First Deputy Prime Minister Taha Yasin Ramadan arrived in Cairo 25 June, announcing that he will deliver a message to Mubarak from President Saddam Husayn and that he hopes to conclude several bilateral agreements during his 3-day visit, MENA reported.

Iran-Iraq War; Gulf Shipping

Iranian forces killed or wounded at least 50 soldiers from an Iraqi battalion that launched an unsuccessful attack on Iranian positions on the southern front early 24 June, IRNA claimed. Meanwhile, Iranian artillery pounded Iraqi SAM launching pads west of the Tigris River, according to an Iranian commander cited by the agency.

As for the Kuwaiti cargo vessel detained by the Iranian Navy 20 June, an Iranian official announced that Iran will "take a proper decision" about the ship after thoroughly inspecting its cargo, IRNA reported. In a related report, the *GULF DAILY NEWS* noted that Kuwait has begun high-level contacts with Iran over the vessel.

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Comment on Implementation of Damascus Agreement

PNC Speaker Rejects Agreement

JN241246 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1100 GMT 24 Jun 85

[Text] Amman — PNC Speaker His Eminence Shaykh 'Abd al-Hamid al-Sa'ih has said that the agreement that was reached in Damascus and that is currently being implemented in the Palestinian camps in Beirut is rejected in form and content. In a statement to the radio, he said that with regard to form, the agreement is not sound because it was concluded with the Palestinian factions in Damascus and not with the PLO — the legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. According to the agreement, these factions were placed as an alternative to the PLO. He added that the agreement is also rejected in terms of content because it implies the splitting of the Palestinian ranks and the disarmament of the Palestinians in the camps so that they will not be able to defend themselves, despite the fact that other sides in Beirut, including the Phalange, the Lebanese Army, and the Amal movement are still retaining their weapons and can strike at the Palestinians whenever they want.

'Political Contents' Rejected

JN221325 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 22 Jun 85 pp 1, 3

[by Lamis K. Andoni]

[Text] Amman — A senior official of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Friday criticised "the political contents" of a cease-fire agreement signed in Damascus Monday between the Lebanese Shi'ite Amal militia and the Syrian backed Palestine "National Salvation Front," but said that the PLO "supports the cease-fire for humanitarian reasons".

Deputy Commander of PLO forces Khalil al-Wazir (Abu Jihad) told the *JORDAN TIMES* that the "political contents of the agreement encroach upon the rights of the Palestinians in Lebanon which are contained in the Cairo agreement between the PLO and the Lebanese Government."

Mr. al-Wazir was referring to a 1971 agreement signed between the PLO and the Lebanese government [to] regulate the presence and distribution of armed Palestinian forces and political and information offices in Lebanon.

Monday's cease-fire has suceeded so far in stopping the almost one-month-old heavy fighting between Amal forces and the encircled Palestinian fighters and inhabitants of Palestinian refugee camps in Beirut.

On Friday, Mr. al-Wazir asserted that the PLO leadership believes that the cease-fire "should be maintained" but the PLO leadership "will not accept any agreement which contains any political dimensions between any Palestinian party other than the PLO and the Syrian Government or Amal or any other party."

The Palestine "National Salvation Front" which signed Monday's accord, was formed in Damascus last March to "counter the February 11 agreement between the PLO and Jordan" and replace the PLO leadership. The front, which includes the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP), the PFLP-General Command (PFLP-GC), the Popular Struggle Front, Al-Sa'iqah and rebels within PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat's Fatah movement, has reiterated that it has no intention to create parallel organisation to the PLO.

According to Mr. al-Wazir, however, by insisting that the front was the only spokesman for the Palestinians in Lebanon, "both Syria and Amal are trying to impose the front as the representative of the Palestinian people."

Right from the onset of the fighting between Amal and the Palestinians, Mr. 'Arafat accused Syria of masterminding the attacks in an attempt to eliminate all traces of Palestinian political or military presence in Lebanon.

In their turn, Syria and Amal blamed Mr. 'Arafat and his supporters of "instigating the clashes in the refugee camps" — an argument which was strongly refuted by leaders of the "Salvation Front," which, for the first time since the eruption of a rebellion against Mr. 'Arafat's leadership two years ago, joined forces with the PLO chairman's supporters in defending the Palestinian refugee camps in Beirut.

During Friday's interview, Mr. al-Wazir did not voice any direct criticism of the front but warned that Syria has imposed "humiliating" and "dangerous" conditions on the Palestinians in Lebanon and to "market the front as the representative of the Palestinian people" through the Damascus agreement.

He cited three articles of the cease-fire agreement as examples of Syrian violations of the Cairo agreement and Syria's attempt "to subjugate the Palestinians in Lebanon". He said the agreement includes an acceptance by the "Salvation Front" to allow Lebanese security posts to operate inside the refugee camps and to confiscate heavy armaments from the camps and the vaguely-termed "relocation of light armaments."

"These are extremely dangerous conditions, which if implemented, would lead to the complete disarmament of the camps' defenders and leave the Palestinians vulnerable and helpless in the face of any future attack from any hostile party in Lebanon," Mr. al-Wazir said.

He explained that the PLO's support of the cease-fire stems from humanitarian reasons, "For, our first priority is to put an end to the bloodshed and to enable the delivery of food and water and medicine to our people in the camps."

"But the PLO cannot and will not abide by the conditions of the cease-fire," he said. "We cannot accept any political agreement which was not reached with the PLO."

"The fighting started and stopped by a Syrian decision but Damascus is seeking to impose new political realities through the cease-fire agreement using to the full advantage the humanitarian concerns of the Palestinian people," he concluded.

PFLP-GC's Jibril on Agreement

JN240905 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0315 GMT 24 Jun 85

[Text] Damascus — PFLP-GC Secretary General Ahmad Jibril has affirmed the importance of persistent action on national and pan-Arab levels to make the recent Damascus agreement succeed — an agreement which was concluded to stop the capitulatory course, and to entrench the Syrian-Palestinian-Lebanese alliance. In a statement to the press published yesterday, Jibril said that this agreement came to bring the Syrian-Palestinian-Lebanese cohesion back to its real position — the position of direct confrontation of the U.S.-Zionist conspiracy whose two main pivots are 'Arafat and King Husayn.

Jibril explained that the Damascus agreement has saved the militant Palestinian rifle, indicating that the Palestine National Salvation Front [PNSF] has returned this rifle to its practical and true place after it had been relinquished by the deviationist course led by 'Arafat. Jibril added that those who are now lamenting the Damascus agreement, do so because this agreement has put an end to their bloody conspiracy and stopped the human and material exhaustion in the Palestinian camps in Beirut. He affirmed that the PNSF is struggling firmly and constantly to make the Damascus agreement succeed, and will strike with an iron fist all the tools that try to destroy the camps and massacre our people in Lebanon.

Jibril said the capitulationist 'Arafatist course, represented by Mubarak, Husayn, and 'Arafat in particular, is trying its best to hold an Arab summit at the beginning of the next month in order to peddle the liquidatory course that it failed to peddle through the Lebanese arena, and in order to use it as a legitimate cover for 'Arafat and his course in implementing the scheme drawn up in the imperialist and Zionist circles.

PLF Supports Agreement

JN240648 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0315 GMT 24 Jun 85

[Text] Damascus — The Palestine Liberation Front [PLF] has announced its support for the Damascus agreement that was reached between the Lebanese national Democratic Front and the Amal movement on the one hand and the Palestine National Salvation Front on the other. In a political statement issued yesterday, the PLF stressed its determination to continue the joint struggle with the national Lebanese movement until Zionist withdrawal from all the Lebanese territories is achieved. The PLF sees the Damascus agreement as a renewal of the Palestinian revolution's relationship with the factions of the national Lebanese movement on the basis of firm confrontation of the Zionist occupation, and on the basis of decisive confrontation of the U.S. imperialist plan in the region, particularly the Husayn-'Arafat treasonous agreement.

The PLF pointed out that the Damascus agreement has acknowledged the militant role of the Palestinian revolution in the Lebanese arena, uncovered 'Arafat's cards, and revealed the flimsiness of his role in the Palestinian camps. It said that the crimes and seditions the 'Arafatist circles are concocting are not restricted to Beirut, but all Lebanon will be their major arena. Concluding its statement, the PLF affirmed its concern for the continuation of the national Syrian-Palestinian-Lebanese militant relations on whose firm basis it is possible to confront the U.S. imperialist schemes in the Arab region and to confront the Zionist occupation.

Arab Parliamentary Union To Meet in Amman

JN240956 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 24 Jun 85 pp 1, 17

[By Nayif Hamalis]

[Text] Amman — A big development has occurred on the level of convening the Arab Parliamentary Union [APU] and on moving the APU headquarters. 'Akif al-Fayiz, speaker of the House of Representatives, has announced that the APU will meet in Amman next year. He said that it has been decided to move the APU headquarters from Damascus to Amman as of next year. Answering a question by *SAWT AL-SHA'B*, Al-Fayiz said: The APU session was postponed at the request of the Syrian parliament. He pointed out that Jordan has agreed to the postponement of the APU session which is scheduled to be held in Damascus in July.

PNC Speaker Shaykh 'Abd al-Hamid al-Sa'ih announced that the PLO has agreed to the indefinite postponement of the APU meeting due to the current Arab situation and the preoccupation of the PLO and the PNC in the events taking place in the Palestinian camps in Beirut, and their concern to supply these camps with food and arms and to mobilize Arab and world public opinion in light of the tragedies to which the camps are exposed. In an exclusive statement to *SAWT AL-SHA'B*, Al-Sa'ih said: Holding the APU meeting in Damascus requires that an invitation be sent to all Arab parliaments, including the Palestinian parliament. He said that if he were invited he would go to Damascus to attend the meeting.

The PNC speaker added that he discussed the convocation of the conference with 'Ali al-Salami, chairman of the APU, and 'Abd al-Rahman Bawari, APU secretary general, during their visit to Amman. He pointed out that it was agreed that the invitation to represent Palestine should be directed to him, and not to anyone else. He said that this is an unquestionable fact in the view of all Arab parliamentarians.

Al-Sa'ih called on the Arab nation to meet the level of its responsibility. He said if the Arab nation shouldered its responsibilities, the APU meeting would not be postponed. He said that the Arab nation should give parliaments the oportunity to work with freedom and democracy in order to discuss the developments in the Arab arena, to adopt decisions, and define responsibilities.

Al-Sa'ih said that the Aden agreement was at the level of responsibility and produced consensus decisions, a matter which called for optimism. The meeting was a prelude to an Arab stand that would overcome differences among regimes.

Al-Fayiz Denies HQ To Move

JN241307 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1100 GMT 24 Jun 85

[Text] Amman — 'Akif al-Fayiz, speaker of the House of Representatives and head of the Jordanian parliamentary branch of the Arab Parliamentary Union [APU], denied a local newspaper report today which quoted him as saying it has been decided to move the APU headquarters from Damascus to Amman. Al-Fayiz said that Amman will be the site of the 16th session of the APU Council, which will be held at the beginning of next year, and that Amman will not be the APU headquarters. He affirmed that the APU chose Damascus as its headquarters in accordance with article 12 of the APU charter. He added that, in accordance with article 9 of the APU charter, the council chairmanship alternates annually according to alphabetical order of the Arab parliamentary branches that are APU members. Accordingly, the chairmanship of the APU council will shift from the PDRY branch to the Jordanian parliamentary branch. Al-Fayiz said that the postponement of the APU conference in Damascus was at the request of the Syrian parliamentary branch. The Jordanian parliamrntary branch, like the other Arab countries, has agreed to the postponement.

'Source' Denies PLO Offices Moving to Amman

LD241417 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1125 GMT 24 Jun 85

[Text] Tunis 24 Jun (KUNA) — An authorized Palestinian source today denied press reports about the PLO's resolve to transfer some of its institutions from Tunisia to Jordan. Some press reports from London, quoting Arab diplomatic sources in Amman, had stated that the PLO Political Department, the unified information department and the PLO Executive Committee Secretariat will be gradually transferred to Amman, with coordination with the Tunisian Government.

The authorized Palestinian source, who asked not to be named, told KUNA that the PLO "has not made any decision to transfer these institutions from Tunis to Amman," and added that "these news reports might have linked its reports to the move of some Palestinian individuals to Amman."

U.S. Reportedly 'Canceled' Muhammad Milhim Visa

JN221025 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0958 GMT 22 Jun 85

[Text] Amman, 22 Jun (INA) — The U.S. Administration has banned Muhammad Milhim, member of the PLO Executive Committee, from entering the United States.

An informed Palestinian source told the INA correspondent here today that the American Embassy in the Jordanian capital informed Muhammad Milhim, who plans to travel to the United States in order to attend the meetings of a UN committee on occupied territory affairs, that the visa issued to him prior to his election as a member of the PLO Executive Committee and which is valid until 1987, is considered canceled. The embassy advised him not to travel, because he would be returned from New York.

The Palestinian source explained that Muhammad Milhim insists on responding to the invitation to attend the meetings, and that he has contacted the PLO UN representative who, in turn, informed the UN secretary general about this action.

The soruce said that the United Nations has submitted an official request to the U.S. Department of State to permit Muhammad Milhim to enter its territory.

It will be recalled that Muhammad Milhim was dismissed from his post as mayor of Halhul in the occupied West Bank and deported to Jordan in 1980.

Milhim Leaves for New York

JN240753 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 24 Jun 85 p 22

[Text] Amman — Muhammad Milhim, head of the PLO Occupied Homeland Affairs Department, has left Amman for New York to attend the UN development fund meeting that seeks to prepare studies on projects in the occupied territories and provide laboratory equipment, scholarships, and training courses for the kinfolk in the occupied territories. The fund has earmarked $20 million for the occupied territories and it was decided that $7.5 million be spent this year.

Voice of PLO Details Anti-Israeli Operations

JN242121 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1619 GMT 24 Jun 85

[Text] Our herces inside the occupied homeland are continuing their brave operations against enemy military and vital targets all over our occupied land. These operations, along with operations dring the past few weeks, constitute an advanced phase in Palestinian military action, forcing the Zionist spokesman to partially admit such operations because they were carried out against military targets under the eyes of settlers.

These operations confirmed our fighters' ability to carry out recent military decisions of the Palestine Revolution Forces General Command. The following is a detailed report on these operations:

1. The Martyr Mahir al-Birmi unit carried out an attack with incendiary bombs on a military vehicle on the Jabaliyah- (Bayt Lahiyah) road on the morning of 22 June. The attack destroyed the vehicle and injured its driver.

2. The same group carried out an attack with hand grenades against a military vehicle near Al-Nusayrat camp, south of Gaza, on the evening of 21 June. The attack injured all vehicle occupants. The enemy forces besieged the camp and began arresting dozens of camp residents.

3. One of our fighters stabbed a Zionist civilian guard in Jerusalem on 20 June. The guard was seriously wounded and was stripped of his weapon. Despite the siege imposed on the area, our fighter escaped and returned safely to base.

Further Report

JN241919 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1619 GMT 24 Jun 85

[Text] A military spokesman for the Palestine Revolution Forces General Command has stated the following: Our heroes operating throughout our occupied homeland continued to carry out heroic operations against the enemy's military and vital targets. These operations are characterized by direct confrontation through daily attacks using hand grenades and machineguns against enemy foot patrols and vehicles. They are also characterized by the Zionist army's inability to follow up the moves of our revolutionaries after they carry out their operations. This made the enemy close the regions of the operations for several hours in search of those who carried them out. The following are details of the operations our revolutionaries carried out in the last 24 hours:

1. Our revolutionaries launched a hand grenade attack on an enemy military vehicle on Haifa Street in the city of Nabulus at noon on 23 June. The attack resulted in wounding an unspecified number of the vehicle's occupants.

2. On the evening of the same day, the same group attacked an enemy military vehicle on Faysal Street in Nabulus using hand grenades. The attack resulted in damaging the vehicle and wounding its driver.

3. At 2230 on 23 June, one of our groups attacked with incendiary bombs a military bus carrying personnel belonging to the Zionist civilian guard near the township of Kafr Qalil. The attack resulted in wounding four civilian guards. A fire broke out in the bus, after which army and border guard forces cordoned off the area, began combing operations, and arrested a number of citizens. Curfew is still imposed on the township.

4. On the evening of 22 June, one of our revolutionaries threw a hand grenade at an enemy foot patrol in the camp of 'Ayn Bayt al-Ma' near Nabulus. The explosion wounded two enemy soldiers. Our revolutionaries managed to return safely to base. Revolution until victory!

[Signed] The Palestine Revolution Forces General Command

PLO Statement on Sidon Palestinian Camp Events

JN242010 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1619 GMT 24 Jun 85

[Text] For the 6th consecutive day, Lebanese isolationist forces and the agent Lahd forces backed by the Zionist enemy are continuing their brutal attacks against the eastern Sidon region and the Palestinian camps using heavy artillery fire and rockets. The PLO yesterday issued a statement in this regard. Following is the text of the statement:

With support from the Israeli enemy, Lebanese isolationist forces and the agent Lahd forces have madly escalated attacks against the eastern Sidon region and the Palestinian camps, using heavy artillery fire and rockets launched from Zionist enemy and isolationist positions from Sunday morning until 1300 yesterday.

Meanwhile, the fascist isolationist forces, backed by vehicles, reinforced their positions. They tried to advance toward national positions on the axes of Lab'a, 'Ayn al-Mir, Kafr Salim, and Al-Miyah wa Miyah under a cover of violent artillery shelling.

Our heroes defending Sidon, the Palestinian camps, and surrounding areas waged heroic confrontation battles against the isolationist forces, which continued until yesterday noon. They managed to repulse the attacking fascist forces that left behind casualties and mechanized equipment on the battlefield.

The PLO views the desperate attempts by the isolationist-Israeli side to strike at the steadfastness of national areas in Sidon, the Palestinian camps, and in southern Lebanon for the 6th consecutive day as a continuation by this agent force and various tools of a comprehensive explosion in Sidon, Beirut, and Tripoli in order to entrench the conspiracy of partition and to deport Palestinians from Lebanon.

GULF AFFAIRS

Fate of Kuwaiti Ship, Crew Remains Unknown

GF250535 Manama GULF DAILY NEWS in English 25 Jun 85 p 1

[Text] A senior official for the owners of a Kuwaiti-registered cargo ship seized by Iran last Thursday said last night the fate of the vessel and its crew remained unknown.

"We are in the dark. We have received no further news," the official from the United Arab Shipping Company said.

The government of Kuwait has started high-level contacts with Tehran concerning the 23,000 tonne *Al-Muharraq*, taken by Iranian gunboats in international waters 30 miles outside the Strait of Hormuz on its way to the Gulf from Europe.

Foreign Ministry officials yesterday declined to comment on what progress is being made to have the vessel freed.

BAHRAIN

AKHBAR AL-kHALIJ Assails Iranian Obstinacy

GF241920 Manama AKHBAR AL-KHALIJ in Arabic 24 Jun 85 pp 1, 4

[Untitled editorial]

[Text] Iran is launching a comprehensive political campaign, sending high-level delegations to Third World countries. Why? It seeks support for its policy to continue the war. This is a very strange matter indeed — using diplomacy to serve the war, while the rest of the world uses diplomacy to achieve peace.

At the same time Iran continues its military operations against Iraqi territories, ignoring all the practical peace proposals and the cease-fire agreement presented by Iraq. This means unprecedented insistence on war.

It would be better for Iran to accept mediation by countries which offer their good offices. It should direct its efforts to end this war, which worries Arab and Islamic countries as well as the nonaligned countries.

Are these countries glad to receive warmongering Iranian delegations? Will they support the Iranian policy of continuing the war?

The answer, of course, is no. Otherwise, these countries would contradict their own policy, which calls for an end to the war.

The period Iraq announced for cessation of the raids is about to end. Iran's practices show that it is not responding to these peace initiatives, but continues to move in the opposite direction.

Now Iraq warns of Iranian operations continuing. Iraq also warns that it will resume the raids, which had great effect inside Iran.

Now we are facing a new round in the Gulf war. We do not know when it will end. The useless Iranian obstinacy is the reason for the war continues.

Amir Departs for Kuwait on 'Private Visit'

GF250818 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0750 GMT 25 Jun 85

[Excerpt] Manama, 25 Jun (WAKH) — His Highness Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman Al Khalifah, the Amir of Bahrain, left for a 1-day private visit to Kuwait today.

KUWAIT

'Official Source' on Security, Birri's Remarks

LD241500 Kuwait KUNA in English 1405 GMT 24 Jun 85

[Text] Kuwait, June 24 (KUNA) — Kuwait will remain open for honest expatriates who come here in search of a decent living, an official source at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs said Monday.

But those who intend to exploit the security of the country or attempt to turn it into a platform for their doctrines and (?harmful type) of thinking will not be tolerated or allowed to enter the country, he added.

The source was referring to a statement by the Lebanese Justice Minister and leader of Amal group Nabih Birri at a press conference June 17 [date as received] on the hijacked American plane.

[Word indistinct] carried out from time to time are mere security precautions applied to all those who violate Kuwait's residence legislation, illegal residents, or those who engage in activities harmful to security, the source noted.

Such procedures are applied to all nationalities, whether Arabs or foreigners, and are also internal matters to which no one is entitled to object irrespective of any reason.

The source affirmed that Kuwait will remain open to all decent expatriates whose services are required by the country, but stressed that "those who plan to exploit Kuwait for harmful activities will not have a place among us."

"Birri should know more than anybody else, that several thousands honest Lebanese were and are still living in Kuwait enjoying full security and care."

Those Lebanese will always be welcomed as long as they refrain from acts that are harmful to Kuwait and its people, the source said.

Foreign Minister Condemns All Terrorism

GF241135 Kuwait ARAB TIMES in English 23 Jun 85 p 1

[Text] Kuwait, which had been the victim of a series of terrorist attacks, condemned all forms of terrorism, the deputy premier and foreign minister, said yesterday.

Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad told reporters that terrorism, which endangered the lives of innocent people, contradicted all laws and norms and was in conflict with international conventions and the freedom of the individual.

Shaykh Sabah recalled the series of terrorist attacks which have hit Kuwait: from the 1983 bombings of the U.S. and French embassies and public installations; to last December's eight-day hijacking of a Kuwaiti plane to Iran which led to the death of two passengers and threats against the lives of three Kuwaitis; and finally last month's assassination attempt against H.H. the Amir.

Referring to the current TWA hijacking crisis in Beirut, Shaykh Sabah said there was nothing Kuwait could do "but strongly condemn this and call upon the international community to coordinate efforts to end such barbaric behaviour."

Shaykh Sabah also referred to the GCC and said that the next meeting of the foreign ministers council would discuss developments in the Arab World, efforts to combat terrorism and the implementation of the resolutions adopted at last November's summit in Kuwait.

OMAN

'UMAN Rebukes Hijacking of U.S. Airliner

GF241630 Muscat 'UMAN in Arabic 23 Jun 85 p 1

[Untitled editorial]

[Text] The hijacked U.S. plane has been standing at Beirut Airport for more than a week. The fate of its passengers is unknown and no breakthrough is in the horizon. An atmosphere charged with political and military tension and crises is threatening the region with another war. Hijackings and air terrorism primarily affect innocent people and may cost them their lives. The intensity of disputes will increase the inhumane consequences. The hijacking of the U.S. plane and the way this crisis is being dealt with cannot be considered principled, political, or even moral.

The scenario of this hijacking began after takeoff from Athens Airport followed by shuttle journeys between the airports of Algiers and Beirut. The plane then settled at Beirut Airport, and the passengers were dispersed as hostages in various locations in Beirut by groups not deterred from committing any foolishness against these passengers. These groups adhere to stands designed to create anarchy and confusion. The pervading tension and terror satisfies innate desires and serve the aims of their masters, who direct these sabotage plots.

This scenario and the position of the hostages must at least motivate and minds of those eager to restore security and stability to Lebanon and remove any reason for a return to interventions. This scenario embodies an improper trend that contravenes human morals and principles. It is illogical that innocent people are victimized because of other people's sins. It is unreasonable that man should lose his most pressing need — his security — yet he has nothing whatsoever to do with the sides and arenas that cause this loss. It is incomprehensible that man should be subjected to severe torture or deprived of his life just because he happens to be of a certain nationality.

We do not forget the efforts of those trying to annihilate terrorism, safeguard the lives of innocent people, and protect Lebanon from more disputes, killings, and afflictions. We hope to witness a speedy, just, and humane end to the hijacking crisis represented by the release of all the hostages. Their release will provide an opportunity for other efforts to achieve the goals currently aimed for by the claimants.

Qabus Receives Moroccan King's Message

GF241318 Muscat Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 24 Jun 85

[Text] His Majesty Sultan Qabus ibn Sa'id has received a message from his brother His Majesty Moroccan King Hasan II. The message was given to Thuwayni ibn Shihab, the special representative of his majesty the sultan during a meeting today with Moroccan envoy Abdelhadi Boutaleb, who arrived in Oman earlier today.

The Moroccan envoy left Muscat this afternoon. He was seen off by Electricity and Water Minister Khalfan ibn Nasir and the Moroccan ambassador in the Sultanate.

Interior Minister Returns From UAE

GF241802 Salalah Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 24 Jun 85

[Text] Interior Minister Badr ibn Sa'ud ibn Harib returned home this evening after a 1-day visit to the UAE.

During his visit, he met with Shaykh Hamid ibn Rashid al-Na'imi, ruler of Ajman Amirate; Shaykh Rashid ibn Ahmad al-Mu'ala, ruler of Umm al-Qaywayn; Shaykh Saqar ibn Muhammad al-Qasimi, ruler of Ras al-Khaymah; and Shaykh 'Abd al-'Aziz ibn Muhammad al-Qasimi, deputy ruler of Al-Shariqah.

He conveyed to them messages from His Majesty Sultan Qabus ibn Sa'id dealing with intimate fraternal relations between the Sultanate and the UAE.

The rulers of the UAE asked his highness the minister to convey their greetings and good wishes to His Majesty Sultan Qabus ibn Sa'id.

SAUDI ARABIA

'UKAZ Rejects Violence To Regain Rights

GF230647 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 0400 GMT 23 Jun 85

[From the press review]

[Text] On the developments in Lebanon, the newspaper *'UKAZ* said: This historic stage, through which the region is passing,

requires a real policy of issues and a wise remedy which will spare the region any negative consequences. The paper indicated that one must support the real efforts being made to release the innocent U.S. plane hostages, based on the conviction that violent acts of kidnapping and hijacking will not solve an issue, and that reaction must never rise to the level of an unacceptable act.

In conclusion, *'UKAZ* said: There is no doubt that the inhabitants of the region need to posess an understanding that rises to the level of justice concerning the fateful cause to regain legitimate rights by methods with which the world sympathizes.

Arab Summit Shows Desire 'To Face' Situation
LD242306 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 24 Jun 85

[By Husayn al-Askari]

[Text] The number of Arab countries that agreed to convene the emergency Arab summit to discuss the situation in the Arab arena and its variables, whose impact on the Arab cause cannot be ignored, are increasing.

The developments in the Arab arena have become a chain reaction. It seems difficult to ignore those relations and their influences on the current Arab issues, at the forefront of which is the issue of the Arab-Israeli conflict. However, despite all the variables that have been created and are still being created by this very interaction, the capability of the Arabs to control the course of events is still effective. Even though it appears there are periodic differences of methodology rather than of substance, which gives the Arab nation's opponents the impression that it is beyond Arab capabilities to put forward an alternative that springs out of national conviction and meets one objective, there is no doubt that the Arabs' adversaries' emphasis on the differences in the Arab stances stems from the Arabs themselves, who have allowed these differences to occupy a prominent place in the arena of joint Arab action. However, this does not mean that it is too late or that we have missed the chance. It is premature, despite all that has happened and is still happening, to say that the situation of is out of control.

Out of this reality, the Arab majority's support for holding an emergency Arab summit is a good indication of their desire to face up to the situation and their determination to (?sincerely) put an end to developments the Arabs ought to deal with. [Words indistinct] to create the Arab dialogue, through which it will be possible to confront the ferociously increasing challenges facing the Arab nation.

Convening the emergency Arab summit might serve as an opportunity to tackle many issues of the Arab [word indistinct] that have become, in their minumum level of interaction, a portrait which shows the Arabs as if they were confronting themselves. The matter requires sincere contemplation among the Arabs themselves in order to find the capability to confront the challenges, which are increasing in their viciousness. [Words indistinct] that the Arab nation is capable of dealing firmly and authoritatively with its problems.

Jordanian Official Begins Visit to Jeddah
GF241440 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1335 GMT 24 Jun 85

[Text] Jeddah, 24 Jun (SPA) — Marwan al-Qasim, chairman of the Jordanian Royal Court, arrived in Jeddah this afternoon on a visit to the Kingdom during which he will convey a message to His Majesty King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz from his brother His Majesty King Husayn of Jordan.

He was received by Muhammad Ibrahim Mas'ud, minister of state and member of the Cabinet; and a number of officials.

Fahd Receives Husayn Message
GF241856 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1735 GMT 24 Jun 85

[Text] Jeddah, 24 Jun (SPA) — His Majesty King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz this afternoon received Marwan al-Qasim, chairman of the Jordanian Royal Court, who conveyed to him a message from his brother His Majesty King Husyan of Jordan.

The meeting was attended by His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, minister of foreign affairs; and Muhammad Ibrahim Mas'ud, minister of state and member of the Cabinet.

Defense Minister Inspects Military Units
GF211130 Jeddah Domestic Service in Arabic 1000 GMT 21 Jun 85

[Text] His Royal Highness Prince Sultan ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, second deputy prime minister, defense and aviation minister, and inspector general, this morning made an inspection tour of a number of units in Sharawrah, including the paratroopers and new storage workshops. During this tour, he listened to a brief summary on the phases of the workshops project. He then visited the Air Defense Forces and gave a speech congratulating personnel on the blessed 'Id.

His Royal Highness then made a visit to Al-Wadi'ah, where he met with the commander and conveyed to the forces there the greetings of his majesty the king, the supreme commander of the Armed Forces, and his crown prince. He gave a speech affirming that our goal in developing the Armed Forces is to serve Islam and Arabism. He urged them to make more efforts and continue their training.

AL-JAZIRAH on Pakistani-Afghan Talks in Geneva
GF230737 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 0400 GMT 23 Jun 85

[Text] The Geneva bilateral talks, under UN supervision, between the foreign minister of the ruling Afghan regime and the Pakistani foreign minister have entered their third day. Diego Cordovez, UN assistant secretary general, is mediating between the two ministers in their indirect talks.

In today's editorial, *AL-JAZIRAH* commented on this subject. It said that the talks' scheduled priorities should be rearranged for one reason — because intervention in Afghanistan resulted

from the USSR's sending more than 100,000 Red Army troops to Afghanistan to decide the power struggle in favor of the communist agents in this Muslim country.

The newspaper added: Hence, the withdrawal of Soviet troops must be the first point dealt with in the bilateral talks in Geneva, not an agreement concerning nonintervention in Afghanistan's affairs. This must be followed by dealing with the issue of granting the Afghans their legitimate right to self-determination and choosing their own government by way of a popular referendum and free elections.

UAE

AL-ITTIHAD on Ending the Hostage Issue

GF250812 Abu Dhabi WAM in Arabic 0640 GMT 25 Jun 85

[From the press review]

[Excerpt] Abu Dhabi, 25 Jun (WAM) — *AL-ITTIHAD* states that all parties directly or indirectly concerned with the U.S. hostage issue are making efforts to end this situation, with the exception of the United States which has adopted a vague position. While the United States "asserts the need to end this issue peacefully, its actions move in the absolutely opposite direction, under the slogan of preserving U.S. prestige — even if this prestige is at the expense of the American people." The paper points out that the issue does not require profound thinking. The solution is clear and available. It requires an initiative from the United States itself and not from any other side. Its position toward arrest and suppression campaigns in the Zionist entity must be clear, and must stem from the principles of civilized concepts to which Washington claims to adhere. The paper adds: "As the United States has declared war on terrorism, it had better look to itself first and review its policy in the region in order to eliminate part of the hatred and the lack of confidence that fills the hearts of all the peoples of Arab countries, not just in Lebanon. This must be done through good intentions, not by dispatching fleets and planes to the Lebanese shores and airspace.

The paper goes on stating that the key to solving this issue is in the hands of the United States, "even if the government of the Zionist enemy agrees to release the Arab detainees from its prisons, provided the United States requests it. The ball is currently in the U.S. court. We do not beleive that the Reagan administration can drop the ball, but if it does, then others will suffer the consequences."

AL-ITTIHAD Criticizes U.S. Stand on Terrorism

GF220748 Abu Dhabi WAM in Arabic 0715 GMT 22 Jun 85

[From the press review]

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 22 Jun (WAM) — Commenting on the United States' recent tone on terrorism and the threats to U.S. interests in the Middle East, *AL-ITTIHAD* says in its editorial: Daily events, whether public or private, have not witnessed any aggression against a U.S. institution or installation in any Arab country "because the Arab people are very aware of the potential of political action to realize their national goals."

AL-ITTIHAD emphasizes that the United States repeatedly plays on this tone to justify its claims on the threat of international terrorism while "it blesses the real terrorism in the Middle East; the main source of this terrorism is Israel, the usurper of Arab land." The United States fosters Israeli terrorism. Israel kidnaps Arabs from their houses and imprisons them in its jails in occupied Palestine, and kills Lebanese women and children. "In its foreign policy, the United States knows nothing except the use of force. It moves its fleets to the Lebanese coast and blatantlt threatens to intervene militarily," *AL-ITTIHAD* adds.

Concluding, *AL-ITTIHAD* affirms that the Arabs have never started violence "and that the use of violence to counter violence is legitimate as self-defense. The Arabs never knew violence in their national struggle because it is a legitimate and just struggle."

Planning Ministry on Effects of Oil Crisis

GF221816 Doha QNA in Arabic 1030 GMT 22 Jun 85

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 22 Jun (QNA) — A report prepared by the UAE Planning Ministry indicates that the crisis in the international oil market represented by the reduction of oil prices and production still affects the march of development in the UAE. It says that the situation has forced the UAE to continue pursuing a policy aimed at rationalizing state expenditure.

The report states that this policy affects the volume of investment projects to be carried out in the UAE. It indicates that many future projects have been suspended, which has influenced the geographical distribution of projects in the UAE. The report points out that the cost of investment projects, which totaled 11.8 billion dirhams ($3.2 billion) in 1983, decreased to 7.4 billion dirhams ($2 billion) last year. The rate of expenditure on projects decreased to 742 million dirhams last year from 1,317 million dirhams the year before. A total of 240 million dirhams has been spent for the execution of federal projects which serve more than one emirate, although 408 million dirhams had been allocated.

Journal Details Increase in Foreign Trade

GF241312 Manama WAKH in English 1600 GMT 23 Jun 85

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 23 Jun (WAKH) — Manufacturing industries in Dubai accounted for 93 percent of the total exports of industrial produce from the United Arab Emirates, according to the Dubai Chamber of Commerce and Industry journal *TRADE AND INDUSTRY*. An increase of 18 per cent in the exports of manufactured goods was achieved during 1983 compared with 1982. The growing trend in exports helped the UAE to emerge as a regional and international centre for re-export activities. The journal noted that large quantities of goods are re-exported to over 100 countries all over the world.

According to *TRADE AND INDUSTRY*, at the end of June 1984 the total bank credit to trading sector amounted to DH [dirham] 39.88 billion. Of this figure the wholesale sector

accounted for DH 29 billion, retail DH 8.24 billion, transport, storage and communications DH 2.64 billion.

Oil Exports revenue constitutes a large proportion of UAE total trade value. In 1983, oil exports accounted for 84.7 percent of total UAE foreign trade value. The UAE exports oil mainly to West Europe, the USA, and Japan. UAE oil is exported to 72 countries all over the world. Japan is the principal importer of UAE crude oil sharing 37 percent of total UAE oil exports, followed by France (10.7 percent), the USA (7.1 percent), Holland (6.7 percent), Italy and Switzerland (3 percent each). UAE annual oil exports to the UK declined sharply during the last five years, sharing only 2 percent of the total crude oil exports.

Value of non-oil exports from the UAE witnessed a positive trend during the period 1980-84, increasing by 102 percent during the last five years, i.e. from DH 953 million in 1980 to DH 1.927 billion in 1984. Non-oil exports share [figure indistinct] percent of total UAE non-oil trade value. Available data shows an increasing trend in domestic industrial exports mainly from the hydrocarbon complexes in Abu Dhabi, Dubai and Al-Shariqah. Aluminium exports from Dubai have also added a new element to UAE export potentialities. Japan is the principal importer of UAE manufactured goods, sharing 31 percent, followed by Saudi Arabia, sharing 21 percent, and the United States with a share of 16.6 per cent.

UAE re-export trade during the period 1980-1984 showed a rising trend inspite of the unfavourable trading condition in the area. Re-exports increased from DH 3.8 billion in 1980 to DH 4.8 billion in 1984 at an average increasing rate of 5.3 per cent.

UAE is largely dependent on imports from international market to meet to local requirements of consumer, intermediary, and capital goods. UAE imports from over 170 countries all over the world. Seventy-three percent of the country's imports are met by ten industrialized countries in Western Europe and from the United States, Japan, and some other Asian countries.

PDRY

Chairman's Address on Movement's Anniversary

GF212034 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 21 Jun 85

[Speech by 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, secretary general of the YSP Central Committee and chairman of the Supreme People's Council Presidium, on the 16th anniversary of the 22 June corrective movement; place not given — live or recorded]

[Excerpts] O friends, O children of our great Yemeni people. Today is the 16th anniversary of the glorious 22 June corrective step which was undertaken by the progressive current in the national front backed by the masses of the people and the other democratic powers in the country. This was designed to rescue the revolution from the hazards and dangers of the devationist right, which the 14 October revolution was subjected to just after attaining independence in November 1967. On this occasion, on behalf of the YSP Central Committee and the Supreme People's Council Presidium, I would like to express to the masses of our people, the masses of our great Yemeni people, and to the strugglers of the party, and its supporters and friends my warm heartfelt congratulations and comradely greetings. I wish them further successes in their private lives and in their work.

The third YSP general congress, which our country will witness at the end of this year, will be an important and historic event in the life of our revolution and our people [words indistinct] which has been realized. We will continue the fruitful, ambitious, and perseverant work to execute the third 5-year plan and bolster the [words indistinct] policy of the YSP on the basis of the party program and its scientific theory, whether through its assimilation of developmental laws or through continued efforts to achieve unity between the party and the people, or by defining the new trends of the party's activity during the coming stage in the field of developing national economy in the framework of the third development plan in the various sectors of progressive construction. We will continue the struggle to unify the homeland on a peaceful and democratic basis and expand the external political activity of the PDRY in such a way that will bolster its position on the Arab and international levels.

We will continue the peaceful efforts which have been made in the past years to preserve security and stability in our region and keep it away from all factors of conflict and tension which are supported, fed, and financed by imperialist circles and their agents, and which are designed to threaten the security of our peoples and draw their attention away from their major duty — economic and social construction. It must be made clear that the struggle for peace and security in our region cannot be separated from the struggle for the security and peace of the whole world. That is why this very difficult and hard task cannot be attained by hopes, desires, and good intentions alone. It requires an understanding of the nature of the age and the rules of general development. The preservation of international security and peace as envisaged by the imperialist circles contravenes their aggressive policies, adventurous trends, and their extremist and reactionary policies.

Therefore, while adhering to our principled positions on this issue and toward the continuation of the peaceful efforts that are exerted in this regard, it is our duty to continue the process of reinforcing our defensive, political, and economic capabilities so that we will be able to defend our homeland, the security and stability of our people, and to participate in preserving the security and peace of our region.

Simultaneously, we will work toward undertaking our nationalist and internationalist duties through supporting and backing the just struggles of national liberation movements and the Arab people, foremost of which is the Palestinian revolution forces. These very forces are being subjected to a new episode in the series of brutal actions in the Lebanese capital. These actions are being perpetrated by imperialist, Zionist, and reactionary circles against the Palestinian people. Their aim is to obliterate their national rights and to liquidate their presence and future. We reiterate the call for all Palestinian revolution factions to seriously, expeditiously, and responsibly work to restore the unity of the PLO so that it will be able to firmly confront the imperialist and the Zionist and the reactionary plans — such plans that are aimed at the Palestinian people. Out of our responsibility and

meeting our duties toward our Palestinian brothers, we will provide all support and backing in order to fulfill this national task which is laid before the Palestinian revolution factions.

The detriorating Arab situation also requires the cohesion of the Arab national and the progressive regimes in confrontation of the imperialists' plans and plots that are designed to isolate and attack the national regimes and the Arab liberation movements one after the other. In this regard, we stress that Arab solidarity opposed to imperialism and Zionism has become a popular, wide, and pressing Arab goal in the face of the complicated Arab situation and the escalating political and military attacks by imperialist and Zionist circles against our Arab people. We are emphatic in realizing that our conflict with the imperialist and Zionist enemies is the battle of all nationalist and progressive peoples. We cannot win this battle except by bolstering our Arab unity and cohesion and by strengthening our strategic alliance and friendship with the Soviet Union and the other countries of the socialist bloc.

Comrades, brother citizens: While we celebrate the 16th anniversary of the great 22 June step, we remember with all sincerity and appreciation the revolution martyrs who sacrificed their lives for the revolution in defending the people's cause in order to achieve the goals and render successful the principles of the YSP. We renew our promise to them that we will stay faithful to our principles, cherish their rememberance, protect the progressive struggle which they established with sweat and blood, and defend the party unity which embodies the hopes and aspirations of our revolutionary forces and people in trying to secure the course led by the revolution.

Let us constantly progress from our victory to another toward achieving all the strategic goals of the Yemeni revolution. Glory be to the YSP, our great leader. Glory be to our Yemeni people.

Al-Baz Visits Sudan; Delivers Mubarak Message

NC242230 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2100 GMT 24 Jun 85

[Text] Khartoum, 24 Jun (MENA) — General 'Abd al-Rahman Siwar al-Dhahab, chairman of the Transitional Military Council and commander in chief of the Sudanese Armed Forces, received a message today from President Husni Mubarak within the context of their ongoing consultations on issues of concern to the two countries and on developments in the Middle East issue. Dr Usamah al-Baz, director of President Mubarak's office and Foreign Ministry first under secretary, who arrived in Khartoum this afternoon, conveyed the message to Gen Siwar al-Dhahab. After delivering the message, Dr al-Baz left Khartoum for Cairo.

Before leaving Khartoum, Dr Usamah al-Baz made a statement in which he explained that the message he delivered to Gen Siwar al-Dhahab from President Husni Muabrak was a friendly and fraternal one related to bilateral cooperation and to current issues in the region of special importance to the two countries.

He added that the message comes within the two countries' continuing consultations. He said that it has been agreed to continue and intensify these consultations in coming weeks.

Dr Usamah al-Baz said: We expect to receive some Sudanese officials in Cairo soon.

He went on to say: Our dialogue and consultations are continuing. Therefore, we will come to Khartoum often. This is natural, given our two countries' relationship.

In his statement, Dr al-Baz emphasized that Egypt is at the very heart of events in the Arab arena.

He added: The current situation involving the Arab League is a superficial matter, and I believe that it will disappear soon. It has not affected Egypt's Arab role or its national commitment.

Replying to a question about Egypt's view on Arab issues, Dr al-Baz said: We feel that it is vital and necessary for a collective Arab move to take place and for the Arab states not to tarry at all, so that the situation in the area will not deteriorate any further.

Asked about Egypt's stand on integration, Dr Usamah al-Baz said: Sudan and Egypt have emphasized their commitment to their eternal and fateful relationship. Integration is only one aspect of this relationship, and not its crux, because the relationship goes beyond integration or any other charted course; it goes beyond legal formulas and the forms and molds they represent.

He added: Integration itself is not vital. What is vital is that the single people in the two countries express their constant commitment to the belief that their's is a special relationship that rises above events, persons, governments, regimes, and legal forms. The coexistence of our masses and contacts at various levels are but an expression of this relationship.

Replying to a question as to whether Egypt will provide aid to Sudan, Dr Al-Baz said: We do not view our ties with Sudan within the context of aid, but within the context of solidarity.

He went on to say: We could not say that Egypt helps Sudan, because when Sudan helped Egypt we said not that Sudan helped us but that Sudan took a strong and faithful position toward us. When Egypt does the same, it is merely reciprocating the good deed of the Sudanese people.

He pointed out that the Egyptian-Sudanese view of pan-Arab issues is unified, and is based on the same goals and foundations. He said: The interests of the twin people are one; we regard these interests as one.

Asked if President Husni Mubarak's recent statements in Khartoum closed the door on the issue of former president Numayri's extradition, Dr Usamah al-Baz said: We have not closed any door in our contacts with our Sudanese brothers, but we believe that neither this subject nor any matter that could influence the fateful relations between the two peoples should be raised.

He added: We certainly do not dispute the Sudanese people's choice of government or their decision to call their officials to task, because these are the Sudanese people's rights, to be expressed by their own free will, in accordance with their political desires.

Dr al-Baz continued: There have been rumors that the relationship between Egypt and Sudan seeks to protect regimes and rulers, but events have proven this to be untrue, because the two countries' relationship goes beyond policies, rulers, and regimes. We discuss all matters as brothers and we speak to each other with completely open hearts.

Continuing to comment on the question of former president Numayri's extradition, Dr Usamah al-Baz said: President Mubarak has been following a specific tradition to which Egypt has always adhered, without deviation. This tradition is that Egypt refuses to surrender political refugees under any circumstances. He added that Egypt hosted the first conference on Arab human rights a few weeks ago. If we take this into consideration and add to it the special realtionship that exists between Egypt and Sudan, we discover that the matter goes beyond a stand on a specific person or a specific ruler. The idea is that Egypt is open to all sons of Sudan, under all circumstances. He said that Egypt should not be exploited as a means of harming Sudan or of carrying out hostile activities or actions against the Sudanese Government or people. He added: Egypt can never be used as a tool or a stage for any political, military, or propaganda action, moral or physical, against Sudan. This is the first condition of Egypt's hospitality, which is based on respect for the interests and feelings of the Arab people, particularly the Sudanese people.

Asked what Egypt's position would be should Sudan ask for Numayri as a criminal and not as a political refugee, Dr Usamah al-Baz said: We must not inflate the issue. We all have challenges before us. There are political issues, as well as the matter of preserving the image of the Sudanese people. These issues are interlinked. We must confront our economic problems, as well as the problems of drought and desertification. We must work to consolidate democracy and select the appropriate formula to protect Sudan against any foreign intervention, and we must promote Sudan's Arab and international role.

He continued: There are many problems facing you — the problems of development, industrial modernization, reformation of your educational system, the definition of the basic principles of your democratic choice and of the kinds of political action, creation of political parties, and the conduct of your domestic national dialogue.

He added: All of these things, in addition to the Arab issues, the extent of their effect, and your situation in relation to your neighboring states, are basic issues that must preoccupy every Sudanese, along with the rest of us.

Dr Usamah al-Baz added that Egypt has not adopted a stand against Sudan or one intended to harrass Sudan on any issue. We are always prepared to give Sudanese issues priority attention, which is not true of many Egyptian issues.

Asked about the formulas and agreements that govern the two countries' relationship, Dr al-Baz said: Egypt has no objection whatever to discussion with the Sudanese brothers of all of the kinds of cooperation that govern our relations.

He added: We must admit that ours is a special relationship. We are completely open, and we do not seek to create or support any particular situation. We are prepared to discuss any matter that the Sudanese brothers believe would promote the interests of Sudan and of Egypt.

Dr Usamah al-Baz went on to say: We welcome all ideas that are based on goodwill and that seek to promote cooperation and better relations. But as for ideas that seek to incite an estrangement between Egypt and Sudan, these are improper, and we will not deal with them.

Dr Usamah al-Baz reaffirmed that Egypt welcomes any option that is acceptable to the Sudanese people. He said: Anyone who doubts the strength of the relations between Egypt and Sudan is not aware of the two countries' national interests. Such a person could be motivated by anti-nationalist sentiments.

Asked about Egypt's position on the improvement of relations between Sudan and its neighboring countries, Dr al-Baz said: Any improvement in Sudan's relationship with its neighbors is primarily Sudan's concern. However, we must welcome it, especially if it will lead to further stability and will enable Sudan to devote itself to confrontation of the issues that it faces.

'Abd al-Majid on 'Arafat's Call for ICO Meeting

NC241342 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 24 Jun 85

[Text] PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat made a telephone call to Foreign Minister Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid and requested Egypt's support for an emergency meeting of ICO foreign ministers to discuss the Palestinian issue. Dr 'Abd al-Majid assured him of Egypt's complete approval of this demand. This is consistent with Egypt's policy of support for the Palestinian issue and its efforts to help the Palestinians achieve their legitimate aspirations.

Dr 'Abd al-Majid issued instructions today to Egypt's ambassadors in the Islamic nations of Africa and Asia. He asked them to get in touch with the foreign ministers of their host countries. The purpose of this is to get them to back 'Arafat's call for an emergency meeting of ICO foreign ministers.

'Abd al-Majid Meets With PLO Representative

NC241415 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 24 Jun 85

[Text] Foreign Minister Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid met today with Sa'id Kamal, the PLO's representative in Cairo. They discussed developments affecting the Palestinian issue and the condition of Palestinians in Lebanon's refugee camps.

Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Arrives in Cairo

NC250919 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0850 GMT 25 Jun 85

[Text] Cairo, 25 June (MENA) — Iraqi First Deputy Prime Minister Taha Yasin Ramadan arrived in Cairo this morning, heading a high-level delegation, which includes Minister of Trade Hasan 'Ali; Minister of Higher Education 'Abd al-Qadir 'Izz al-Din; as well as representatives from the Ministries of Trade, Industry, Labor, Agriculture, Education and other governmental departments.

The delegation will stay in Egypt for 3 days, and will be received by President Mubarak tomorrow.

Upon his arrival at Cairo Airport, Ramadan said that he has a message from Iraqi President Saddam Husayn for President Husni Mubarak dealing with bilateral relations and the Arab situation. He said that his visit stems from a desire to consult with the Egyptian brothers and to expand bilateral cooperation. He indicated that the consultations and visits have created a positive atmosphere conducive to achieving stability in the relationship between Iraq and Egypt.

Ramadan said that Iraq understands the Egyptian people's and President Mubarak's feelings regarding the Iraq-Iran war. He emphasized that the situation along the entire front is excellent and that Iraq is not worried by the plots concocted against it or by Iran's position. He expressed the hope that his visit to Cairo will result in the signing of several bilateral agreements.

The Iraqi deputy prime minister said that the Arab summit conference, which should have been held 3 years ago, might be convened now. He said the reason for holding this conference is clear, stressing that Iraq wants to end the war with Iran while the latter is not willing to do so.

Concluding his statement, he said that Syria, Libya, and Iran are behind the attempts to liquidate Palestinian action in Lebanon and to partition that country. The Iraqi deputy prime minister and his delegation were received at Cairo Airport by Dr Mustafa Kamal Hilmi, deputy prime minister and minister of higher education and scientific research; Samir Najm, the Iraqi charge d'affaires in Cairo; and Assistant Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Badawi.

The first session of talks with Prime Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali will begin this evening.

Commentaries View Hijacking of U.S. Airliner

U.S. Unfairness Blamed

PM241814 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 24 Jun 85 p 3

[Mustafa Amin "Opinion" column]

[Text] Some Egyptians contacted me from New York and asked me what I would like the United States to do about the crisis of the hijacked American plane. Some American journalists in Cairo asked me the same question.

In my view the crisis of the hijacked U.S. plane is only a side issue while the fundamental issue is U.S. policy in the Middle East, which is an unbalanced and inequitable policy. Suffice it to say that the United States equates one small state like Israel with 20 Arab states. It favors one country against 20 Arab countries and imagines that the friendship of one country, Israel, is more important than the friendship of 20 countries. This makes every Arab citizen in the Middle East feel injustice and unfairness.

U.S. public opinion is up in arms because the lives of 40 Americans are threatened but does not care for the tens of thousands that are being slaughtered in Lebanon, in the Iraq-Iran war, or in Afghanistan. The United States might say: What do I care? This is a conflict among Muslims. But it must ask itself what is the original cause of this conflict? The cause is Israel. If it were not for Israel's invasion of Lebanon this bloody conflict would not have taken place.

While accusing fingers were being pointed at Israel the U.S. Senate approved an additional $500 million in aid to Egypt and $250 million for Jordan but at the same time approved $1.5 billion in aid for Israel. That is stinginess here and extravagance there. Two countries whose population exceed 50 million receive half the amount of U.S. aid given to a country with a population of 3 million.

Countries that have been wronged and some of whose lands are occupied by Israel are being treated in a lesser manner than the aggressive state, Israel, that seized some of their lands. In the meantime, U.S. public opinion views Israel aggressions against the Arabs as the actions of a small state defending itself while it views the Arab defense as terror and a threat to the area. Meanwhile, the Muslims are astonished at the meager aid the United States gives to the Muslim mujahidin in Afghanistan as they are singlehandedly confronting the world's biggest and most powerful army that is attacking their independence, destroying their homes and villages, and turning the peaceful population into refugees.

For all these reasons some of the Arabs have come to believe that the United States does not deal with them fairly or in accordance with the UN Charter and the Human Rights Declaration and, therefore, their response to it is the only language they understand, namely the language of terror.

The day the united States deals with the Arabs and Muslims with equality and justice no U.S. planes will be hijacked, no U.S. interests in the area will be threatened, and there will be no danger of the Middle East situation exploding.

Israeli, U.S. Actions Criticized

NC222344 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2200 GMT 22 Jun 85

[Text] Cairo, 22 Jun (MENA) — The Sunday issues of Cairo newspapers discuss developments in the incident of the hijacked TWA airliner, mostly saying that despite our total rejection of the hijacking and of the detention of innocent hostages, Israel, which enjoys U.S. support, daily commits crimes that are no less serious than the hijacking of the U.S. plane.

AL-AHRAM writes that no one living in a civilized world should approve of hijacking as a way to press demands, regardless of how fair and legitimate these demands may be. Meanwhile, no one should approve of the policy adopted by Israel following its occupation of south Lebanon; that is, the detention of the Shi'ite, Sunnite, Druze, and Palestinian resistance forces and their transference to Israeli prisons.

If Israel believes it proper to keep hundreds of such detainees in its prisons, the paper writes, then Israel is endorsing the principle of taking hostages. This makes it possible to argue that Shi'ite gunmen were following Israel's example when they took the hostages in contravention of international law. The only difference is that these hostages are American civilians who have nothing to do with events in the Middle East. The paper concludes by asking who is responsible for the detention of the 40 American hostages: The Shi'ites, Israel, or both!

AL-JUMHURIYAH writes: If hijacking and taking hostages deserve denunciation from everyone, and if the United States is right to get angry over the detention of its citizens, nevertheless, the United States bears a good share of the blame for the deteriorating and unsteady course of events in the area, of which the hijacking is only one symptom. Equally symptomatic of this undesirable course of developments is that Israel, which enjoys the undivided support of the United States, daily commits more serious crimes than hijacking.

AL-AKHBAR also rejects all forms of terrorism, regardless of the motive. We oppose terrorists of all ideologies and creeds, the paper writes, because terrorism victimizes civilians.

The paper notes that terrorism flourishes in areas of deadlocked conflicts, like the Middle East with its long-term crisis. The same applies to those parts of India with minorities that suffer a feeling of persecution, and to Britain with the Irish Republican Army and that unresolved political issue. This does not mean, the paper writes, that we approve of those who resort to hijacking to press their rights. The paper concludes by writing that the world should try, through international organizations, to find final and comprehensive solutions to the pending political problems. This will help fight terrorism. The paper argues: The world should not wait for terrorist acts to happen before calling for meetings and discussions to deal with terrorism.

Shamir Viewed as Obstacle to Tabah Settlement

PM210941 Cairo AL-AHRAM International Edition in Arabic 20 Jun 85 p 4

[Muhammad 'Abd al-Mun'im "Foreign Policy" column: "Yitzhaq Shamir or the New Don Quixote"]

[Text] The current disagreement between Israeli Prime Minister Shi'mon Peres and Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir is a conflict between the mentality of the past that has gone and the facts of the new era that imposes themselves.

If the disagreement is ostentatiously about Egypt's request to refer the Tabah problem to an arbitration committee, the request that Peres approves and Shamir rejects by threatening to pull out of the Israeli coalition government, the real cause of the crisis is that in the eighties and in the post-1973 war era, Shamir is living with the mentality of the forties; that is the policy of seizing land by terror and intimidation which the Stern and Irgun gangs pursued. Therefore, Shamir's personality is quite similar to that of Don Quixote, which the great writer Cervantes created and which will forever symbolize those who have divorced themselves from the present and who make us laugh with their actions that belong to a distant past that has long gone by.

If this is the case with Shamir, Shi'mon Peres, to the contrary, is well aware of all the facts about Tabah and the peace agreement as well as about Egypt's determination to establish correct international boundaries between the two countries and serve right and justice so that real peace — and Shamir was among its major opponents — will begin.

Therefore, the present conflict in Israel is not one between one official and another as much as it is between the supporters of peace which the new reality has imposed and the advocates of creating crises, problems, and wars. The conflict will be decided in favor of the real trend in Israel.

Ramadan Departs for Cairo With Saddam Message

JN250800 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0740 GMT 25 Jun 85

[Text] Baghdad, 25 Jun (INA) — Taha Yasin Ramadan, RCC member and first deputy prime minister, left for Cairo this morning on a visit that will last several days at the invitation of Egyptian Prime Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali. Ramadan told INA that he will deliver a message from President Saddam Husayn to Egyptian President Muhammad Husni Mubarak on relations between the two fraternal countries in all spheres.

Ramadan added that he and Egyptian officials will hold talks on the current Arab situation, the need to double Arab efforts for uniting Arab ranks, and ways of strengthening the bonds of Arab solidarity to check the enemy onslaught against the Arab nation. He added that the visit also aims at concluding an Iraqi-Egyptian agreement on organizing cooperation in all fields, including the conclusion of an agreement on economic, technical, and scientific cooperation.

Ramadan said that he will also discuss with Egyptian officials the developments the Arab arena is currently experiencing, the conspiracies by the Iranian and Zionist rulers against the Iraqi, Palestinian, and Lebanese people, and the overt and blatant coordination among Iran, Al-Asad, and Al-Qadhdhafi.

Ramadan stressed that the consolidation of Iraqi-Egyptian relations serves the Arab nation in view of the weight and influence the two countries have in the Arab and international arenas.

Ramadan emphasized the need to hold consultations and talks among Arab brothers to unite the stand and to consolidate relations and solidarity against the nation's enemies which want to keep the Arabs backward, divided, and fighting each other.

The delegation accompanying Taha Yasin Ramadan comprises Hasan 'Ali, RCC member and trade minister; 'Abd al-Qadir 'Izz al-Din, acting minister of higher education and scientific research; the under secretaries of the Ministries of Labor and Social Affairs, Light Industries, and Higher Education and Scientific Research; and experts, advisors, and heads of departments in the various ministries.

Transportation Minister Leaves for Tunis

JN241551 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1500 GMT 24 Jun 85

[Text] Transport and Telecommunications Minister 'Abd al-Jabbar 'Abd al-Rahim left Baghdad for Tunis today leading a delegation to attend meetings of the executive office of the Arab transportation ministers which will begin in Tunis today.

The minister told INA that the office will discuss a number of issues involving inter-Arab cooperation in the fields of transportation and telecommunications.

He added that Iraq and the Arab League will present two working papers. The first will deal with methods of coordinating transportation and telecommunications and the second with transportation strategy in the Arab homeland.

The minister noted that he will also visit Algeria to sign a trade and maritime cooperation agreement between the two fraternal countries.

Armed Forces Command Issues Communique No 1,875

JN241621 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1600 GMT 24 Jun 85

[Communique No 1,875 issued by Armed Forces General Command on 24 June 1985]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

The victorious Iraqi armies are continuing their heroic fighting in all war sectors against the tyrant clique's forces, which are insisting on continuing the war and aggression. The following is a summary of operations for last night and today:

1. Our brave men opened artillery fire on enemy positions and gun emplacements in the central sector. They destroyed four infantry positions and one medium machinegun emplacement and blew up a hardware stockpile.

2. Using artillery and other weapons, our forward units pounded enemy positions and fortified targets east of Basra. The enemy suffered two casualties and one of its infantry positions was destroyed. Our brave patrols recovered serviceable weapons that the enemy had left behind in the no-man's-land in the same sector.

3. Our forward units opened effective artillery and mortar fire on enemy positions and observation posts in the northern sector, destroying one enemy observation post and two infantry positions, whose occupants were killed.

4. Using artillery and other weapons, our forward formations pounded enemy positions and targets opposite our units in the IV Army Corps sector, scoring direct hits and inflicting heavy losses in men and equipment.

5. Two enemy boats attempted to advance toward our forward positions east of Tigris. Our units opened artillery and mortar fire, hitting one of them and forcing the other to flee.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 24 June 1985

Briefs

Outgoing Moroccan Ambassador — Baghdad, 22 Jun (INA) — Taha Yasin Ramadan, Iraqi RCC member and first deputy prime minister, received Moroccan Ambassador Abdeslam Znined today on the occasion of the end of his term in office in Baghdad. [Excerpt] [*Baghdad INA in Arabic 1415 GMT 22 Jun 85 JN*]

Crown Prince Hasan Departs for Visit to UK

JN221419 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 1405 GMT 22 Jun 85

[Text] Amman, 22 Jun (PETRA) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hasan left Amman on a private visit to the United Kingdom this morning.

His highness was seen off at the airport by the prime minister, the chief of the Royal Hashemite Court, the court minister, his highness the chief chamberlain, the commander in chief of the Jordanian Armed Forces, the secretary general of the Royal Court, and a number of senior officials. He was also seen off by the British ambassador in Amman.

Islamic Council Views TWA Hijacking, Violence

JN240918 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 24 Jun 85 p 17

[Text] Amman — The Council of Islamic Organizations and Societies in Amman has called on U.S. President Reagan to tackle the issue of the hijacked U.S. airliner with patience, forbearance, understanding, and objectivity and with the spirit of a great power that has an international and ethical responsibility.

In a letter sent to President Reagan through the U.S. ambassador in Amman yesterday, the council said that the harm being done to U.S. interests in the region and the sentiments every citizen in the Middle East harbors toward U.S. policy are caused by the overt, forceful and unreserved U.S. stand to the side of Zionism.

The council stressed the futility of confronting violence with violence and that such a course of action, like the one the U.S. Government carried out through its agents when it detonated the booby-trapped car in Beirut's southern suburb on 8 March, killing or wounding more than 318 innocent people, is not in line with the status and dignity of the U.S. people and their state.

The council of Islamic Organizations and Societies called for the formation of an international commission to study the phenomenon of international and individual cases of violence in an unbiased way and to adopt suitable solutions.

The council wondered: Why was there no clamor and no denunciations over the kidnapping operations which Israel — a UN member — has carried out against the Palestinian and Lebanese people when it kidnapped thousands and put them in prison and detention camps?

The council stressed that international and indvidual injustice, despotism, and aggression are the most important causes of violence.

The council said that had it not been for this irrational championing of Zionism by the United States which conflicts with right and justice, better relations would have been possible between the Islamic nation and the United States.

Editorials View TWA Hijacking, Consequences

Linked to Israeli Practices

JN230828 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 22 Jun 85 pp 1, 20

[Editorial: "The Problem of the U.S. Hostages"]

[Text] Mystery is still enveloping the destiny of the U.S. hostages in Beirut although several mediators have expressed to the U.S. Administration their readiness to participate in attempts to rescue those hostages. Austria and Switzerland offered to mediate and are waiting for the U.S. to decide on their offer, although in rejecting the idea of exchanging the hostages for the Lebanese prisoners in Israel the U.S. does not give a definite impression that it has made a final decision on the hostage issue. For humanitarian and ethical reasons nobody can bless the ordeal to which the kidnapped U.S. civilians are being exposed. Nevertheless, nobody can ignore the huge responsibility Israel bears toward those hostages. This responsibility is represented by the savage and arrogant Israeli practices in the region which opened the region's doors to acts of violence and even helped these acts of violence extend outside the region. The hijacking of the U.S. airliner was one of the bitter fruits of this violence. It goes without saying that Jordan has warned and continues to warn of the dangers of giving free rein to violence. It is high time for the U.S. Administration to view this warning with the seriousness it deserves and to take steps that put an end to Israel's continuous obstruction of peace in the region, which is considered the main reason for the acts of violence inside and outside the region.

The ordeal of the U.S. hostages is a sign of the setbacks and tragedies that might occur if Israel continues to resist the peace process and if no restraints are imposed on Israeli practices, which are actually terrorist practices that are no less serious than the hijacking of the U.S. airliner and the holding of hostages. Regardless of the way the hostage issue is resolved, the U.S. Administration should not forget the basic fact that the final objective is not only to rescue the hostages but also to put an end to violence in the region, and this cannot be achieved unless the hostile Israeli practices are ended. A just and comprehensive peace is the alternative to the state of chaos threatening the region and spreading outside it. Perhaps the U.S. Administration will realize that the desired peace will not tolerate any delay. Perhaps it will not pay attention to the Israeli falsehoods that consider a march along the road of peace submission to blackmail. It is Israel that is blackmailing the entire international community by insisting on placing its ambitions above peace and above the international community's welfare in the region's stability and prosperity.

Views Military Intervention

JN230819 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 23 Jun 85 pp 1, 19

[Editorial: "Before the Catastrophe Exacerbates"]

[Text] It was expected that the continuation of the hijacking of the U.S. plane in Beirut would not pass without leading to serious complications that aggravate the Lebanese people's dilemma and deepen the dangers threatening the entire region, especially

following the appearance of the massive armada of U.S. warships in the eastern Mediterranean.

Undoubtedly, those who hijacked the U.S. plane and have been holding its passengers hostage for 10 consecutive days have presented the United States with a great opportunity to flex its muscles in Arab territorial waters. They have also presented it with a unique opportunity for a massive military intervention, which could take place amid great sympathy by the largest sector of U.S. public opinion, part of which is actually calling for revenge against the hijackers and their protectors.

Although all of Arab public opinion unquestionably rejects any U.S. military intervention in this deeply perturbed region, the largest sector of popular and official Arab circles do not express any sympathy for the hijackers, who continue to participate in the premeditated conspiracy and barbaric onslaught against the Palestinian refugee camps in Lebanon.

Of course, we do not wish to see such a possible outcome for the continuing capture of the U.S. passengers, especially since the Israeli enemy is the only side that stands to benefit from the expected complications.

At the same time, however, we do not approve of this method because it would endanger the lives of peaceful people. Moreover, such a method is characterized by deep recklessness and disregard of all the possible and unexpected consequences of such deplorable actions. This is being definitely confirmed as the outcome of the hijacking of the U.S. plane.

While the hijackers have the right to demand the release of their detainees from the Israeli prisons — a demand that is supported by international justice and laws — the hijackers's method of dealing with the issue in such flagrant violation of all international norms and laws has weakened the just cause of the detainees, who were kidnapped in a manner similar to the way the U.S. hostages were taken.

We hope that the people of fraternal Lebanon will avoid all the expected dangers resulting from the continuing capture of the U.S. passengers. There is ample time to deal wisely and farsightedly with the current situation by all the parties concerned, especially by those who planned the hijacking and those who are holding the hostages. Otherwise, the expected dire consequences will only benefit the Zionist enemy and its supporters in U.S. public opinion circles.

Undoubtedly, Israel is the most important factor contributing to the present and expected woes and disasters in the region because Israel's aggressive presence in the region is the direct cause of the emergence of the terrorism phenomenon in general.

The current wave of violence is a direct reaction to the abortive Israeli adventure in Lebanon. Therefore, international pressure must be exerted on Israel to release the Lebanese detainees as a means to end the current crisis because this is the least that can be expected from the Zionist entity that produced all these poisons.

Editorial Questions Amal Role in Lebanon

JN240836 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 24 Jun 85 pp 1, 17

[Editorial: "The Amal Movement, What a Terrible Downfall!"]

[Text] We do not know what is motivating the politicized Shi'ite Amal movement. Is Amal led by conceit, despair, or political bids by the movement's wings?

Regardless of its role in the Lebanese arena, the Shi'ite Amal movement remains a small tool in a big game which cannot be decided by any of the factional Lebanese tools of war. Despite the attempts to expand its role, Amal remains one of the tools of the Syrian role in the Lebanese arena. Syria, which realized the meaning of its involvement in the Lebanese swamp, preferred to play a military role in Lebanon through factional armies which are pushed every now and then to a destructive war that moves from one Lebanese city to another and from one Lebanese area to another, sowing destruction and hate. This war has not brought Lebanon close to peace or allowed any Lebanese party to overcome its role in harming others.

The war of annihilation in the Palestinian camps came after the surprising rise of the Amal movement. This rise constituted a turning point in the Lebanese war that produced an armed Lebanese resistance which bewildered both enemies and friends and achieved an Arab and international reputation for Lebanon — a reputation which Lebanon did not dream of after its terrible downfall in the civil war and its contradictions. Suddenly, the Amal movement found a party which involved it in a dilemma in which it gambled with its reputation and lost its assets at all levels. Suddenly, Amal moved from a national resistance movement to a national renegade movement that pursued the Sunnis in Beirut and tried to liquidate them. Amal then became a repressive and killing tool to liquidate the Palestinians. Amal has appeared as a tool of the big crime — a tool which Israel used to justify its invasion of Lebanon. Amal lost its prestige and political reputation and was forced to retreat due to the world's condemnation and denunciation.

The Amal movement's terrible downfall has not stopped at this point. It became a desperate terrorist movement due to the clear failure of the movement and its leaders and to the involvement in the game of hijacking planes and jeopardizing the lives of innocent people in the political gambling which deepened the downfall of the Amal movement in military and political calculations. The hijacking and destruction of the Jordanian airliner was a reply to the condemnation of the Arabs and the Arab League countries of the fall of Amal in the camps war. The hijacking of the U.S. airliner is a bid by the Iranian wing of Amal to cover the crime of the camps, on the one hand, and to remind everybody of the movement's role in opposing Israel and imperialism on the other.

In light of the political and moral deterioration in the Amal movement, the following questions are posed today: What has Amal achieved in the camps war besides staining its reputation and cutting down its size to normal as a toll of conflict in the Lebanese arena? What has Amal achieved by hijacking planes?

Why does Amal insist on entering bloody and destructive conflicts with all Islamic leaderships in the Lebanese arena, including the Druze with whom Amal was about to enter a blatant confrontation in the past weeks had it not been for Syrian intervention? What is the secret of the silent agreement between the so-called Lebanese salvation government, which agreed to be absent and not oppose what is taking place in the camps and Beirut airport, and Amal?

What a conspiracy or political liquidation led by Birri today with the consent of the influential Lebanese and Arab parties in the Lebanese arena! Why has the effective Lebanese resistance against Israel in the south receded, and how has it turned into a silent accord between Israel and Lebanon?

These and other questions are posed with regard to the suspect political developments in the Lebanese arena. The wave of violence still exists in Lebanon and moves from one place to another with a complete lack of sense and logic, in a complete reversal of norms, stands, and values. Is not Amal a clear example of this?

SAWT AL-SHA'B on 'Fabricated' News Campaign

JN241333 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 24 Jun 85 p 1

["A Word That Must Be Said" column by Ibn al-Sha'b: "Words Are a Trust"]

[Text] Why is Jordan the target of fabricated and false news? What is the reason for fabricating news on sensitive issues? And why do some Arab papers pounce on a story, no matter how false it is, to harm our country and disparage its stands?

A few weeks ago, a Gulf paper wrote about an imaginary coup in Jordan that was a journalist's fantasy. Another Gulf paper, misled by the analysis of its correspondent, invented the story of the transfer of Fatah bases and cadres to Jordan. The paper overlooked the fact that Jordan deals with the PLO in terms of all the factions it represents, that Jordan has never proposed dealing with one faction to the exclusion of the others, that the issue of a Palestinian transfer from Lebanon is not a subject for discussion, and that Jordanian-Palestinian and Arab efforts are being exerted to entrench the Palestinians in Lebanon and to secure their protection and security.

A third paper, in view of its misjudgment, has invented a story about the presence of an Egyptian Army in Jordan.

One notices that the three stories all have something to do with military activities. This proves that some journalists have developed warheads at the points of their pens at a time when peace maneuvers, political initiatives, and an explicit invitiation to the world to support a just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East are being carried out.

Truth can never emerge from falsifications and can never be kept secret, no matter the measures adopted to prevent its publication. Fabricated news and false stories become bubbles that are quickly dissipated in a few hours, no longer to be remembered.

We would like to tell those who are looking for trouble through their unbridled imagination and their attempts at ambiguity and inference in their press stories that Jordan has never been so explicit as it is now with respect to its political stands, its political action, and its adoption of the cause of its nation and the Palestinian people's rights to self-determination and to freedom of expression, as well as their participation in mapping out their future within the framework of an acceptable lasting peace.

Jordan is an open book of clear words and is guided by truth reflected in the eyes of those who deal with it in a sincere and objective manner while this same truth blinds those who stubbornly refuse to give in to it.

One must faithfully present facts, and this responsibility can be assumed only by those who respect the truth and love this homeland.

Reportage on Hijacking of TWA Airliner

Al-Jumayyil Message to Shultz

NC251122 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1045 GMT 25 Jun 85

[Text] It was announced today that President Amin al-Jumayyil sent a message to U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz yesterday in reply to the latter's message. In his message, President al-Jumayyil stressed Lebanon's denunciation of the TWA hijacking. He also stressed the efforts being exerted on more than one level to secure the release of the hostages and to solve this issue.

Today, President Al-Jumayyil followed up his communications to secure the release of the airline passengers. He is in constant touch with humanitarian organizations to reach a quick end to this problem.

Al-Jumayyil on Hijacking

NC251151 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1115 GMT 25 Jun 85

[Excerpt] Today, President Amin al-Jumayyil followed up the progress of ongoing communications to secure the release of the passengers of the hijacked airliner. He kept in constant touch with the concerned officials and humanitarian organizations in order to reach a quick end to this problem.

Communications with Washington continued in order to coordinate positions. President al-Jumayyil stressed that Lebanon cannot forget the hundreds of its sons who are detained in Israel's prison. Lebanon spares no means in demanding their release, but it does not condone terrorist actions to achieve this. Lebanon does not make a link between the release of these [Lebanese detainees] and the release of the innocent American hostages.

Birri on U.S. Fleet

NC241440 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1405 GMT 24 Jun 85

[Text] Nabih Birri, minister of state for south Lebanon and reconstruction affairs, continued to devote his attention to the question of the hijacked U.S. plane today. He received a phone call at noon today from the U.S. ambassador to Beirut, Reginald Bartholomew. Bartholomew told him that the United States remains faithful to its position that it is not responsible and, therefore, cannot pressure Israel to release the 'Atlit prisoners.

In response to the U.S. position, Minister Birri explained that he told the U.S. ambassador that this stand is inconsistent with the mission which the United States is undertaking in Lebanon and in the region. He said: I pointed out that in 1982, before the Palestinians left Beirut, Philip Habib, America's envoy to former Lebanese Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan, signed a pledge on behalf of the United States. According to its terms, the United States was to safeguard the detainees held by Israel and to see that the terms of international agreements were applied to them. This pledge remains valid.

It goes without saying that the transfer of the Ansar detainees to areas outside Lebanon violates international agreements, especially the fourth Geneva Convention. Consequently, and in accordance with the U.S. pledge signed by Philip Habib, the United States is directly committed to ask Israel to release the detainees and return them to their homeland. It makes no difference whether this is done as a result of a hijacking or not. Just imagine how much truer this is of the current case, which deals with the actual development of events and dictates that Lebanese and American citizens be protected.

He added: Actually, we believe that the United States is directly responsible in this case, and that it cannot absolve itself of this responsibility. The U.S. fleet's approach to the shores of Lebanon makes us add another condition for the return of the plane's passengers. This time it is from Amal. We demand that the U.S. fleet stay away from our shores.

Asked to comment on the release of 31 detainees from the 'Atlit prison, Minister Birri said: There is no connection between these two issues, especially since Israel, before releasing the 31 detainees, arrested a great many more. The release of these detainees is a crooked operation by Israel to cover up the U.S. position on the matter. There is no goodwill involved. We will see goodwill when all the detainees are released, when Resolution 425 is implemented, and when UN forces are allowed to deploy along the international border.

Asked his opinion on the messages which President Reagan sent President al-Asad concerning the hijacking, he noted: Several messages came from Damascus before and after I intervened in the matter. All of them focused on ensuring the safety of innocent people and so on.

Commenting on what 'Abd al-Salam Jallud and Libyan Foreign Secretary [as heard] 'Abd al-Salam al-Turayki said about Libya's participation in the Jerusalem army, Minister Birri declared: No such army can exist without Imam Musa al-Sadr at its head. Jerusalem can only be liberated by the hands of the faithful, as the imam himself once said.

Birri, British Envoy Confer

NC250923 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0900 GMT 25 Jun 85

[Text] Nabih Birri, minister of state for south Lebanon and reconstruction affairs, received British Ambassador to Lebanon Henry David Miers and discussed with him the latest developments concerning the issue of the hijacked American plane.

Birri, Haydar Statements

NC241844 Paris AFP in English 1645 GMT 24 Jun 85

[Excerpts] Beirut, June 24 (AFP) — Nabih Birri, whose Shi'ite militia is holding 40 U.S. hostages in Beirut, demanded that the U.S. Navy withdraw from the Lebanese coast, while another Amal leader dismissed any possibility that today's release of 31 Shi'ites by Israel would lead to the release of the hostages.

The withdrawal demand was made in a telephone call to the U.S. ambassador here, Reginald Bartholomew, the Lebanese government news agency ANI reported. Mr. Bartholomew's reaction was not known.

Mr. Birri said that this withdrawal was a further demand for the release of the hostages, and had been formulated by Amal, which controls Western and Southern Beirut.

The other condition, already named by the hijackers, believed to be members of the fundamentalist Hezbollah group, has been the release of more than 700 Shi'ites held in an Israeli jail.

But the release was dismissed here by Amal Politburo Chief 'Akif Haydar as "not at all sufficient" to justify freeing the hostages, taken on June 14 from a Trans World Airlines jet.

Asked if some of the hostages might be released in exchange, he said: "It's not a question of buying a house on credit," and added the hostages "will not be freed" in such conditions.

Israel denied that the release had anything to do with the hijacking. It said the 31 had been freed after they had appealed to the Supreme Court because they had not been notified on the reasons for their imprisonment within a 15-day legal deadline.

Israel has said it will only release the Shi'ites provided the security conditions are right in southern Lebanon. But mindful of anxieties in the United States, the Israeli Government has stressed that a release would be ordered if the United States specifically requested it.

Mr. Birri said the United States was "directly responsible" for the release of the Shi'ites, under the terms of an August 1982 accord between President Ronald Reagan's former envoy for the Middle East, and the Lebanese prime minister at the time, Shafiq al-Wazzan.

Under the agreement, Mr. Birri said, the United States guaranteed that Israel would uphold international agreements governing the treatment of prisoners.

By transferring them from the Ansar camp in southern Lebanon into Israel, Mr. Birri said, Israel had violated the terms of the Geneva Convention banning cross-border movement of prisoners. A similar view was expressed last week by the International committee of the Red Cross.

Meanwhile, Syria was today playing a major role in the hostage drama, after contacts with Syria, Iran — which has been linked with the Hezbollah Party and is a Syrian ally — and Mr. Birri, converging sources said.

A Syrian official source confirmed the contacts with Washington, and said "every effort" was being made for a positive outcome. At the same time, the speaker of the Iranian Parliament, Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani, flew to Damascus and met with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad.

Mr. Birri told reporters that he had had "many contacts with Damascus before and after" Amal agreed to hold the hostages.

All the contacts "were connected with security and the protection of innocents," he said, without elaborating. Mr. Birri had indicated last night that he would go to Damascus soon.

Mr. Haydar gave assurances that the hostages were being well treated.

"They have been to the beach, they have newspapers, and we put on video films that they like, westerns and best-sellers, and reports on (Beirut's) southern suburbs," he said.

"They talk with their guards," Mr. Haydar said. "The guards do not seek to convert them to Shi'ism, but to show them that there exists a civilisation other than western civilisation that they own it to themselves to respect."

"They eat very well and will have put on several kilos (pounds) by the time they are released."

Amal May Cease Mediation

NC250615 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0609 GMT 25 Jun 85

[Text] The issue of the U.S. hijacked aircraft remains unchanged. The Amal movement has declared that it has not yet received a positive U.S. response [to its demands]. The movement pointed out that it might abandon its role as a mediator in 7 or 10 days if there are no developments.

'Israeli Gunboats' Fired Upon Near Al-Sa'diyat

NC242130 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 2115 GMT 24 Jun 85

[Text] We were informed a short while ago that Israeli gunboats are off the coast at Al-Sa'diyat. They have been fired upon.

Israeli Naval Activity Reported Near Al-Naqurah

NC251010 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1000 GMT 25 Jun 85

[Text] Local sources in south Lebanon have said that the [Israeli] occupation forces have carried out a naval landing operation on the Al-Naqurah coast. Helicopters, amphibious tanks, and gunboats took part in the 3-hour operation.

Hezbollah Gunmen Set Up Roadblock in Ba'labakk

NC251109 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1105 GMT 25 Jun 85

[Text] Gunmen from the Hezbollah Party set up a roadblock this morning at the Al-Kayyal-South Ba'labakk junction and searched vehicles and passengers.

Birri, Junblatt, Mufti Khalid To Visit Damascus

NC250600 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0515 GMT 25 Jun 85

[Text] Syria is sponsoring reconciliation among the feuding factions in West Beirut in an attempt to end the futile activities now going on there. Damascus has summoned Ministers Birri and Junblatt, who will leave for the Syrian capital today for talks with Syrian Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam.

Mufti of the Republic Shaykh Hasan Khalid will leave for Damascus tomorrow.

Junblatt Reported in Damascus

NC250523 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0445 GMT 25 Jun 85

[Text] According to informed sources, Minister Walid Junblatt arrived in Damascus last night and met with [Syrian Vice President] 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam.

Junblatt's TV Station To Begin Operating 6 July

NC241733 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1615 GMT 24 Jun 85

[Text] Our reporter has learned that a ship unloaded various types of weapons for Junblatt's followers at the illegal port of Khaldah today.

Meanwhile, the CENTRAL NEWS AGENCY has revealed that a cargo ship unloaded electronic gear, transmission equipment, and two antennas last night for use in a television station belonging to Minister Junblatt. The television station will begin operating on 6 July. According to the news agency, the Progressive Socialist Party has set up its studios in B'aqlin and its transmitters in Jabal al-Baruk, where a special antenna will be erected.

Officials from the Arab and international media have been invited to attend the opening ceremony, which will be held under the auspices of Minister Junblatt.

Nasirite Leader Meets Iranian Delegation

NC241521 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1400 GMT 24 Jun 85

[Text] Mustafa Sa'd, secretary general of the Nasirite Popular Organization, received a delegation from the Iranian Embassy at his home in Sidon at noon today. The members of the delegation conveyed greetings from Iran and appreciation for the role Sa'd has played in the nationalist struggle and in the drive to vanquish Israel and its agents.

Sa'd welcomed the members of the delegation and praised the support which Iran, under the leadership of Imam Ayatollah Khomeyni, has given Lebanon's people and their national issue.

Ja'farite Mufti Comments on TWA Hijacking

NC211340 [Editorial Report] Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic at 0930 GMT on 21 June carries a live relay of the Friday prayers held today at Imam Husayn Ibn 'Ali's mosque in the Al-Raml area of Burj al-Barajinah. Ja'farite Mufti Shaykh 'Abd al-Amir Qabalan, who led the worshippers, delivered the Friday sermon titled "Unity and the Need To Repair the Foundations of the House."

After urging the Muslims to return to the foundational values and ethics of Islam, Mufti Qabalan deplores the current division in the Islamic ranks and the corrupt situation in the country, saying: "We reject the ideological, national, and Lebanese disagreements" and "we must carry out an effective role to calm the situation."

Toward the end of his 60-minute sermon, Shaykh Qabalan refers to the U.S. aircraft hijacking, saying: "We must focus all attention on the deliverance of the south and the rescue of the detainees in 'Atlit. There are approximately 800 detainees there. Nobody is taking them into consideration. Nobody is mentioning them. The young men hijacked a U.S. plane. They had earlier hijacked a Jordanian plane. The world did not move hell and heaven because Jordan is a weak country. They hijacked the U.S. aircraft, and heaven and hell were moved [Allahu Akbar]. The United States — the mother of all, grandmother of all, foster mother of all, and lady of all, and [words indistinct]. How do you attack the United States and the American citizen? Your attitude is strange, Reagan. Your attitude is strange, Americans. Are we not human beings? Are you the only human beings? You are human beings. Where were you born and how were you born? We tell you, O esteemed one, that we are human beings, and you are cows. [Shouts of extolment heard by the worshippers] We are human beings because we are demanding freedom for human beings. You are not human beings because you want to squeeze and exploit human beings.

"There is a mess. We are against the air hijacking. I am against the hijacking and against the kidnapping of diplomats. I am a peaceful person and I absolutely reject violence. I hate violence, I hate the gunmen, and I hate [word indistinct]. I do not believe that anybody should carry a pistol. This is my nature. I hate and despise this. However, ease the burden. You can tell Israel to release these prisoners. It only requires a word from you, but you do not condescend to do so. The United States is arguing about this word. Why? Who are those 800 detainees? They are from south Lebanon — from Lebanon. What is Lebanon and what is Lebanon's value? You knew Lebanon's value when the Marines were deployed on the road to the airport. You knew then what Lebanon is, and you knew how the bunkers were set up around the army which was meant to protect us. The bunkers were set up to protect this army. You knew how you put sandbags [hattaytu raml] on the White House. We will fly. If you do not permit us to fly aboard your planes, we will return to the era of the Al-Buraq [name of the creature on which Muhammad made his ascension to heaven] to fly to you. There, we say: I am against the hijacking, but what has happened has happened. We cannot change what has happened. The young men insist on their stand. They yearn to see their brothers in the 'Atlit detention camp back with them. You have two choices. It is either the 47

hostages are exchanged for the 800 detainees or else the issue will continue to oscillate around itself. We do not like this. It is the hijacker who addresses you. If I tell the hijackers to release the hostages for no reason, they would come and detain, kidnap, and challenge me. Therefore, if you love your people, then ease the burdens of other people in order that they may love you."

Norway, Denmark Shift Embassies to Damascus

NC241640 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1545 GMT 24 Jun 85

[Text] Norway and Denmark have decided to close their embassies in Beirut due to the increasing violence and continued occurrence of explosions there. A spokesman for the Norwegian Foreign Ministry said the Norwegian Embassy's employees will be transferred to a hotel in Damascus to do their work. A Danish Foreign Ministry spokesman said that his government is now in touch with the Syrian authorities to ensure that the Danish Embassy in Beirut can operate from Damascus.

Canada also closed its embassy in Beirut about a week ago.

Committee Seeks To Implement Camps Agreement

NC241235 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 24 Jun 85

[Text] The meeting of the joint coordination committee, established under the Damascus agreement, ended at 1345 today. The committee agreed on the positions at which the Internal Security Forces will be stationed and on the deployment of patrols inside the camps. Sources expect that the implementation of these decisions will begin today or tomorrow. The sources said that the areas in which the Internal Security Forces will operate will include those areas which were the scene of clashes during the month of Ramadan.

The committee resumed its meetings this morning. It continued discussing the clause concerning the collection of Palestinian weapons in preparation for the deployment of the Internal Security Forces in the camps. Meanwhile, the removal of barricades in and around the camps continued today in preparation for the deployment of the Internal Security Forces. A security source, however, said that the security forces are still awaiting a decision by the joint coordination committee, and that these forces are ready to enter the camps.

Internal Security Forces Deploy Inside Camps

NC250941 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0900 GMT 25 Jun 85

[Text] Internal Security Forces, numbering between 70 and 100 personnel, have begun deploying inside the Sabra, Shatila, and Burj al-Barajinah camps. A number of Internal Security Forces' personnel entered the Sabra and Shatila camps at 1000 today. Others entered the Burj al-Barajinah camp at 1030. This step is in implementation of the Damascus agreement on ending the war of the camps.

Syrian Intelligence Men Deploy With Army

NC250443 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0415 GMT 25 Jun 85

[Text] A Voice of Lebanon correspondent has learned that Syrian intelligence elements have been deployed at [the Lebanese Army] 1st Brigade's roadblocks in the Kifrayya, Ghazzah, and Al-Faluj areas. Their presence in other areas of western Al-Biqa' is planned for a later time. This measure comes within the framework of military coordination intended to facilitate the Lebanese Army's task of controlling the gunmen. A Lebanese Army unit prevented Junblatt gunmen from opening a new road between Kifrayya and Al-Baruk yesterday, with the aim of linking Al-Shuf with western Al-Biqa'.

Joint Forces Attack Militia Position

JN242037 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1619 GMT 24 Jun 85

[Text] In southern Lebanon, the heroes of the Palestinian-national Lebanese forces took control of one of the positions of the so-called army of southern Lebanon [ASL] for 2 hours 2 days ago following a violent battle in which the agent militias sustained losses in men and equipment.

A statement by the joint forces command said that its heroes attacked a position of the so-called ASL in the township of Al-Rayhan near the mountain township of Jazzin and controlled it after a fierce battle in which machineguns and rockets were used. The statement said that the heroes of the joint forces purged the position by using handgrenades and automatic guns. It added that after destroying installations within the position, the joint forces withdrew, but entered a minefield which the agent militias had planted near the position. One hero called Ahmad Zahir was martyred and another was wounded. The statement added: The heroic group managed to withdraw the wounded and return them to their positions. The enemy radio admitted the operation, but did not disclose the losses of the agent militias. It said that after the operation, these militias conducted a large-scale search with heavy machineguns after surrounding the area with a large number of troops.

Shatila on Objectives of 21 June Beirut Strike

NC241712 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1545 GMT 24 Jun 85

[Text] Kamal Shatila, secretary general of the Union of the People's Working Forces, has explained the objectives of the strike staged in West Beirut on Friday. He said today that the goal was to eject the Amal movement's militia from Beirut for good and to end the chaotic security situation. He described Amal's leaders as plotters against the future of Shi'ites in Lebanon. Shatila called on members of the 6th Brigade to leave the battle and to return to their homes. He revealed that consultations on the strike were held at the highest religious and political levels.

Iranian Majlis Speaker Continues Visit

Received by Al-Asad

JN241813 Damascus Television Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 24 Jun 85

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad received Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani, speaker of the Iranian Majlis, and his delegation at 1845 today. The meeting was attended by Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', and the Iranian ambassador in Damascus. Their discussion dealt with all aspects of the current situation in the Middle East, bilateral relations, and issues of mutual concern.

Holds Talks With Al-Asad

LD240600 Tehran IRNA in English 0545 GMT 24 Jun 85

[Text] Damascus, June 24, IRNA — President Hafiz al-Asad of Syria Sunday night [23 June] hailed Iran's stance against imperialism and Zionism and pinpointed the international impact of the Islamic Revolution.

President al-Asad, speaking in a meeting with Majlis Speaker Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, noted that one of the achievements of the Islamic Revolution is that it has become an Islamic base for the support of the oppressed people throughout the world.

Praising Iran's resistance against bottlenecks created by U.S. imperialism, the Syrian president said that the Islamic Republic of Iran has proved that it is much stronger than such pressures.

He also stressed on the determined will of the Syrian Government and people to continue their anti-imperialist-Zionist fight.

In reply Rafsanjani expressed satisfaction over his visit to Syria, which started Sunday, and referred to the strong will of the Iranian people to continue the war imposed on them by Iraq until the achievement of final victory.

Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati, the Islamic-Revolution's Guards Corps Minister Mohsen Rafiqdust, Syrian Vice-President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, Minister of Foreign Affairs Faruq al-Shar' and a number of other high-ranking officials were also present.

This is Rafsanjani's second visit to Syria. The first visit took place in 1980 when the Majlis speaker headed a delegation there and outlined Iran's views about the Iraqi-imposed war.

Addresses Clergy

LD241259 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 24 Jun 85

[Text] Here is a report on the meeting between Majlis Speaker Hashemi-Rafsanjani, and the struggling clergy of Lebanon, from our correspondent in Syria. We invite you to listen:

Hashemi-Rafsanjani, the Majlis speaker and the imam's representative in the Supreme Defense Council, who is visiting Syria as leader of a high-ranking political and economic delegation, separately met with groups of ulema, Muslims and strugglers from Syria, Lebanon and Palestine. After listening to their points of view, Hashemi-Rafsanjani gave them guidelines in connection with the situation in the region and its sensitivity, and the conspiracies hatched by the enemies in order to create discord in the ranks of the Shi'ite and Sunni strugglers and to take advantage.

The meetings were attended by Shaykh Kaftaru, the grand mufti of Syria; Shaykh Sa'id Sha'ban, the leader of the Islamic Unification Movement in Tripoli; Shaykh Muhammad Mahdi Shams al-Din, vice president of the Higher Shi'ite Islamic Council; Shaykh Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah; and a group of Shi'ite and Sunni ulema from the Lebanese group of ulema. His excellency expressed his deep regret over the recent incidents in Beirut, and said: Instead of uniting the combative forces to face the real enemy, they are pointing their weapons at each other. He added: This is a worldwide conspiracy against Islam and the Muslims. You, the ulema of Islam, Sunni or Shi'ite, and the mujahids who are connected with you, have a historical duty. You are aware that the international blasphemy is terrified of the growth of Islam, and is frightened.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani said: The enemies of Islam, apart from putting Iran under pressure from inside, using the war, counter-revolutionaries, propaganda campaigns, and economic pressures, are trying to fuel the fire of discord and confrontation in Lebanon in order to deal further blows to us. You are aware that the blow dealt to Israel by the Muslim people of Lebanon is unprecedented in the history of that usurping regime. The enemies are therefore trying to compensate for that blow in any way they can.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani also met a number of hezbollahi. He listened to their comprehensive report in connection with their points of view about their fight against Israel, the United States and other Western forces, their hard struggle against the enemies of Islam and Lebanon, and the recent conspiracies in Beirut. He praised their informed stances, their decision to stay away from the recent conspiracies in Beirut, and their spirit of selflessness and legendary morale. He prayed to Almighty God for the victory of Islam.

[Signed] The correspondent of the Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Damascus

Meets With Khaddam

JN241744 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1515 GMT 24 Jun 85

[Text] Damascus — At 1015 today Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam received Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani, speaker of the Iranian Majlis, and an accompanying delegation. Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' and the Iranian ambassador in Damascus attended the meeting.

During this meeting, talk centered in detail on the situation in the region in the wake of imperialist-Israeli-reactionary moves against the people of the region and their national and pan-Arab causes, cooperation, bilateral relations, and issues of common

concern.

A meeting was held in the People's Assembly before noon today between People's Assembly Speaker Mahmud al-Zu'bi and the Iranian Majlis delegation headed by Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani, speaker of the Iranian Majlis, in the presence of several members of the Majlis Bureau, chairmen of its committees, members, and the Iranian ambassador in Damascus.

Al-Zu'bi expressed the appreciation of Syria's people, leadership, and Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran's stands supporting Arab causes, foremost being the Palestine question. He expressed the desire to consolidate parliamentary relations between the two countries. Al-Zu'bi also reviewed accomplishments in Syria under the leadership of President Hafiz al-Asad and explained to the guest delegation the workings of constitutional institutions, especially the People's Assembly.

Rafsanjani expressed his high appreciation of Syria's firm principled stands under the leadership of President Hafiz al-Asad and stressed the Iranian Islamic Revolution's support for Syria in its struggle to liberate the holy lands and to restore usurped Palestinian rights. He expressed his profound satisfaction with the strong developing relations between Syria and Iran. He extended an invitation to Al-Zu'bi to visit Iran at the head of a People's Assembly delegation.

Further on Khaddam Talks

LD241720 Tehran IRNA in English 1700 GMT 24 Jun 85

[Text] Damascus, June 24, IRNA — Iran's Majlis speaker, Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, currently here leading a high ranking delegation, met and conferred with the Syrian vice president, 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam and the speaker of the Majlis Bureau, Mahmud al-Zu'bi Monday.

Rafsanjani also held talks with Syrian and Lebanese Muslim theologians and a number of Palestinian and Amal movement officials as well as those of the Hezbollah party at the Islamic Republic Embassy, here.

Meets People's Assembly Members

LD241911 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 24 Jun 85

[Text] This morning, Majlis Speaker Hashemi-Rafsanjani and his entourage met and conferred with the speaker and prominent members of the Syrian People's Assembly at the invitation of the Assembly speaker. During the meeting, which was also attended by Foreign Minister Velayati and a number of officials and deputies of the Majlis, Mahmud al-Zu'bi, the speaker of the Syrian People's Assembly explained how the Assembly appraises economic issues and about the position of the Assembly in the Syrian system of government. He referred to the role of the Syrian Assembly in the Arab interparliamentary body and expressed hope for coordination between the Iranian parliament and the Syrian People's Assembly and further cooperation between the Assembly and the Iranian Majlis in international conferences.

Then, expressing pleasure at being in the Assembly and meeting its members, Hashemi-Rafsanjani said: Your country is one of the few countries that has stood by us since the revolution. For this reason we thank the Assembly, the president and the authorities of Syria. Of course, we expected this from other Islamic countries, for, as you know, we have converted Iran from an un-Islamic and pro-Israeli front into a pro-Arab and anti-Israeli front.

He added: We expected Islamic countries, like Iraq, to take the opportunity, but we see with their aggression against Iran that the Iraqi rulers (?made mistakes) regarding the connection between us and the Islamic and Arab world. Unfortunately, the reactionaries in the Arab world, who are protected by America, took advantage of Iraq's aggression and, instead of dealing with the issue of the imposed war justly, have dealt with it from an Arab point of view. You country Syria has, however, dealt with the matter with commitment, continuing that course from the beginning.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani finally wished for more contact between the Iranian Majlis and the Syrian Assembly. He formally invited the speaker of the Syrian Assembly to visit Iran.

Meets With Palestinians

LD241823 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 24 Jun 85

[Text] Majlis Speaker Hashemi-Rafsanjani met with high-ranking members of the Palestinian National Liberation Front [Fatah] in Damascus this morning. We draw your attention to a report on the meeting:

Majlis Speaker Hashemi-Rafsanjani met with high-ranking members of the Palestinian National Liberation Front at the Iranian Embassy in Damascus this morning. During the meeting, which was also attended by Foreign Minister Velayati, Guards Corps Minister Rafiqdust, several Majlis deputies, and the Iranian ambassador to Damascus, Abu Musa spoke on behalf of those present. He expressing pleasure at meeting with Hashemi-Rafsanjani and endorsed the position of the Islamic Republic and its authorities on recent events in Lebanon. Abu Musa said:

U.S. imperialism and Zionism are mutually hatching plots in the region. Therefore, jihad to liberate Jerusalem and Palestine is a religious and a Palestinian duty. This duty does not lie solely on the shoulders of the Palestinian nation. It also lies on the shoulders of all Islamic ummah. Of course, the Palestinian nation is the standard-bearer of the movement.

Then, referring to the Palestinian problem, Hashemi-Rafsanjani said: Please convey the greetings and gratitude of myself and the other Iranian authorities to our dear ones in the Palestinian camps. Our position on the liberation of Palestine is very clear. There is no other way to free Palestine except by armed jihad. There can be no progress unless the Palestinians themselves are on the scene. The Palestinians should be the axis of the jihad and the other Muslim nations should be grouped around the Palestinians. Whoever wishes to take away weapons from the Palestinians who want to use their weapons against Israel, has committed a

great crime against the Islamic ummah.

He stressed: The grave responsibility of the Palestinians is that instead of being involved in issues outside Palestine, they should concentrate on the question of Palestine, inside the occupied lands. An important point is that taking away weapons from the Palestinians is not the only harmful act to the Palestinian jihad; more deadly than that would be for the Palestinians themselves to lay down their weapons. If their weapons were taken away, they could get weapons from another source. Therefore, those who have strayed from the path of jihad and think that they can solve the problem through America and Britain, have no right to support the Palestinians. The Camp David course will never lead to the liberation of Palestine. They have no right to comment on the stance of the Palestinians. You should remain on the jihad scene. Although we are far away from the borders of Palestine, we shall nevertheless continue our assistance. We promise you that as soon as we are rid of the imposed war and the Ba'thist Party of Iraq, we shall give top priority to the problem of Palestine. I think that, before being a plot against Palestine, the plot against the camps is aimed at the Islamic Republic of Iran. They intend to damage the Islamic Revolution movement which originates in Iran; but God will destroy the plots and the plotters.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani also met with several committed members of the Amal movement this morning and discussed the plot to cause clashes in the camps in order to undermine the strength of the combative Muslim forces. He stressed the need to step up the struggle against Israel.

Speaks at News Conference

JN241943 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1920 GMT 24 Jun 85

[Text] Damascus, 24 Jun (SANA) — Iranian Majlis Speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani has affirmed that Syria is a bastion of steadfastness confronting the imperialist-Zionist onslaught in the region. Hashemi-Rafsanjani was speaking at a news conference attended by Arab and foreign reporters here today.

On his talks with President Hafiz al-Asad and other Syrian officials, Hashemi-Rafsanjani said: We expect positive, fruitful results. We consulted with one another and obtained good, positive results.

On the Palestinian issue, he said: People who revolt relying on their own capabilities will not be defeated, but if the Palestinians want to fight with [word indistinct] of King Husayn and some Arab hagglers, we do not expect them to obtain any results at all.

On the hijacking of the U.S. plane, he said: In general, we do not approve of any acts that terrorize innocent people. But we must not forget the events that occurred in Lebanon such as Antoine Lahd's acts and the explosions in Tripoli and look upon the hijacking operation as an act of terror, but we must also regard the Elysee Palace and the Pentagon as centers of terrorism.

Regarding means of releasing the hostages, Rafsanjani said force and intransigence cannot stop persons seeking martyrdom. He asked: How can a person who enters a booby-trapped car and turns into ashes be intimidated? The appropriate method is to give him his rights.

Rafsanjani denied the existence of any link between Iran and the hijacked airliner. He said: If the United States wants to exploit the incident in order to clash with Iran, then I believe that experiences have taught it that such a clash would not be in its interest. I believe it will not enter a clash with us so long as it has agents like Saddam. Instead of clashing with the Iraqi Army, we prefer to clash with the United States directly.

Rafsanjani said: I have no knowledge about the identity of the individuals who hijacked the plane. If we had such knowledge, we would have presented it. But the United States is accustomed to considering Islam and the Islamic Republic responsible for everything that is happening in Lebanon.

Regarding Iran's contribution to rebuilding the camps, Rafsanjani said: We will give any assistance requested of us for the Palestinian mujahidin. Our revolution's slogan has always been to support Palestine. We remain faithful to this slogan. On Jerusalem Day, 1 million Iranians marched in demonstrations in the streets of Tehran. The demonstrators cheered for Palestine, although they faced the threat of shelling by the Iraqi regime.

Regarding his visit to the Libyan Jamahiriyah, Rafsanjani said: We agreed on a number of matters that were in the joint communique. These included backing the Steadfastness and Confrontation Front against the reactionary alliance.

Regarding the continuation of the Iraq-Iran war and Baghdad's shelling of Iranian cities, Rafsanjani said: We have no choice but to continue this war until the Iraqi regime falls and the people seize power there. We prefer lasting peace there. We will continue our defense in order to remove the hotbeds of tension in the region.

Tehran on News Conference

GF250654 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 25 Jun 85

[Text] According to the Iranian Radio-Television correspondent in Syria, Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani, speaker of the Iranian Majlis, yesterday held a news conference for press, radio, and television at the Iranian Embassy in Damascus and answered correspondents' questions.

Commenting on the Palestinian problem, Hashemi-Rafsanjani said: We believe that the real danger for Palestine is the mischievious mentality of certain misguided sons of Palestine. If the Palestinians themselves maintain their revolutionary status and do not lay down their arms, then nobody will be able to defeat them. A nation that depends on itself and its arms cannot be defeated. Our real quest should be to (?recognize) the spirit of armed jihad in the actions of all Palestinians. If such a thing is (?recognized), then the victory of the Palestinians will be certain. However, if the Palestinians and certain of their leaders choose to follow the spirit of King Husayn or act like Al-Sadat or certain other weak Arab leaders, then the Palestinian situation will

remain in its present sick position.

In reply to a question on his views about the hijacked American plane, Hashemi-Rafsanjani said on the whole we oppose acts of terrorism that jeopardize and terrorize innocent people but we have always said that not just the weak should be blamed for such acts. All terrorist acts, whether they are carried out directly or indirectly, should be condemned. Air piracy; the explosion at the Muslim mosque in Lebanon; the activities of the forces of Antoine Lahd, who are disturbing the peace in southern Lebanon; and all other terrorist acts committed throughout the world have their centers in Paris and Washington. We should not condemn the Palestinians, who have already lost their home and country and have been robbed of their status and dignity, as air pirates.

Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani added: Prisoners in Israeli prisons or elsewhere naturally have friends who work for their freedom and we cannot deny these martyrdom-loving persons from getting their rights through force or propaganda.

With regard to aid to the Palestinians by the Islamic Republic, Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani said: We will give every aid needed to the Palestinian people and the fighting Palestinian forces. Our program before the success of the revolution had included the Palestinian issue and this continues so today.

The speaker of the Iranian Majlis, in reply to a correspondent who asked if the United States will militarily attack Iran, said: As long as the United States has servants like Saddam Husayn, there is little reason for it to interfere personally. Instead of confronting the Iraqi Army, which comprises Muslim people and members of the Third World, we would prefer to face the United States.

Confers With Grand Mufti

JN241828 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1407 GMT 24 Jun 85

[Text] Damascus, 24 Jun (SANA) — Syria's Grand Mufti Ahmad Kiftaru met with Iranian Majlis Speaker Hashemi-Rafsanjani and his delegation here today. They discussed a number of Islamic issues and the friendly and cordial relations between the Syrian and Iranian peoples.

Joint Committee Discusses Trade

JN241825 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1400 GMT 24 Jun 85

[Text] Damascus, 24 Jun (SANA) — Dr Salim Yasin, deputy prime minister for economic affairs, and Mohsen Mojahed Shaba'tari, chairman of the trade committee in the Iranian Majlis, and his delegation today discussed Syrian-Iranian trade relations and ways to develop bilateral trade. It was agreed that the joint Syrian-Iranian committee will hold a meeting in the near future to discuss all economic issues in order to promote mutual cooperation. Sabah Buqjahji, minister of state for planning, attended the meeting.

Al-Shar' Receives Counterpart

JN241823 Damascus Television Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 24 Jun 85

[Text] Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' received Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati this afternoon. Discussion during the meeting dealt with current developments in the region and relations between the two countries and means of strengthening them in all fields.

Delegation Departs

JN242243 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 2215 GMT 24 Jun 85

[Text] Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani, Majlis speaker in the Islamic Republic of Iran, and his delegation left Damascus at 2300 [2000 GMT] tonight after a 2-day visit to Syria.

He was seen off by Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, People's Assembly Speaker Mahmud al-Zu'bi, Interior Minister Muhammad Ghabbash, Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', and Planning Minister Sabah Buqjahji. He was also seen off by People's Assembly Bureau members, Assembly committee chairmen, some Assembly members, the Assembly secretary general, and the Iranian ambassador in Damascus.

In a predeparture statement to SANA, Hashemi-Rafsanjani expressed his happiness and that of his delegation on visiting Damascus and meeting with President Hafiz al-Asad. He also expressed satisfaction concerning his talks with the president and with Khaddam and Al-Zu'bi. He said that his visit was successful, fruitful, and useful, showing the profound connections and strong relations between the two friendly countries.

Damascus Seeks 'Positive Solution' to Hijacking

NC231915 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 23 Jun 85

[Text] An official Syrian source told AFP in Damascus that the Syrian authorities are doing their best to find a positive solution to the crisis involving the hijacked American plane. According to the source, Syria's efforts are being made in the wake of several messages which U.S. President Ronald Reagan sent Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad on this matter. The source explained that contacts are continuing between Washington and Damascus to settle this crisis.

Damascus on Release of Detainees, Reagan Remarks

JN241930 Damascus Television Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 24 Jun 85

[Excerpts] The hijacked TWA airliner is still parked at Beirut International Airport without any new signs of response to the demands of the hijackers for release of the hostages.

In the meantime, the Zionist occupation authorities today released 31 Lebanese detainees from 'Atlit. Although those released today are considered among those whom the TWA

hijackers wanted freed. the Zionist occupation authorities refused to link their release to the hijackers' demands.

A spokesman for the Zionist entity said that the 31 Lebanese detainees were released from 'Atlit after complaining to the Zionist army's complaints committee concerning the circumstances of their detention.

U.S. President Reagan has endorsed the Zionist view concerning the release of the Lebanese detainees, saying there is no connection between their release and the hijacked airliner. Reagan, who was addressing journalists, went back on his threats to use force to solve the hostages crisis. He said that his country will not use force to end the hijacking.

News agencies have commented on the denial of the Israeli and U.S. Governments on existence of any link between the release of 31 Lebanese detainees and the hijack crisis. They said that the denial shows that both governments are determined not to end the U.S. hostage crisis by peaceful means.

AL-SIYASAH: Junblatt Reportedly Under House Arrest

GF231414 Kuwait AL-SIYASAH in Arabic 22 Jun 85 pp 1, 21

[Text] Well-informed sources have told *AL-SIYASAH* that Lebanese leader Walid Junblatt was placed under house arrest 2 weeks ago in Damascus. The sources added that the Soviet ambassador to Syria has exerted strong efforts to release him.

The sources said that the Soviet ambassador firmly asked the Syrian leadership not only to end the house arrest of Junblatt, but also insisted that the Soviets continue to provide weapons directly to the Lebanese Socialist Party and the Lebanese Communist Party and not via Damascus.

This problem has been under discussion for a long time. It was one of the points discussed by President Hafiz al-Asad and Soviet leader Gorbachev the day before yesterday.

AL-QABAS: USSR Advises Syria To Use Influence

GF211126 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0950 GMT 21 Jun 85

[Text] Kuwait, 21 Jun (WAKH) — The Kuwaiti newspaper *AL-QABAS* reported today that the USSR has advised Syria to use its influence with Lebanese Amal leader Nabih Birri to end the crisis of the hijacked U.S. airliner with minimum losses "because the United States and Israel are planning a major military operation in Lebanon."

Quoting a senior Soviet source, the newspaper said that the goal of this military operation is to "remix cards and to block any solution to the Lebanese crisis Damascus is trying to achieve in accordance with the plans agreed upon with the USSR." The source said Moscow expects that if no peaceful solution to the crisis is achieved, Israel will launch a series of air and commando raids on selected targets in the Al-Biqa' valley and in Beirut's southern suburbs after U.S. monitoring equipment and satellites specify the selected targets for the Israeli retaliatory operation. The operation will begin as soon as the hostages are released, in particular against assembly points, headquarters, and training camps camps for the Hezbollah in Lebanon.

The source ruled out any U.S. raids on any place in the region. "Retaliation will be carried out in Lebanon only," he said.

Information Minister Addresses Expatriates

JN241951 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1515 GMT 24 Jun 85

[Text] Damascus – Information Minister Yasin Rajjuh has affirmed that Syria, under the leadership of President Hafiz al-Asad, has become impossible for agents and conspirators to defeat, because the Syrian citizen, who has rallied around his historic leadership, is ready to exert whetever the national pan-Arab struggle duty demands to keep Syria and the Arab nation proud and dignified.

Addressing a delegation of the Arab-U.S. Cultural Association, headed by 'Abdallah al-Tahhan, Rajjuh said that whenever plotting against Syria increases, the Syrian citizen adopts firmer and stronger positions. He added that Syria will be victorious because it defends Arab rights and honor.

Rajjuh explained to the delegation the details of the plot that began with the Camp David crime that isolated Egypt from the Arab nation and ended with the Husayn-'Arafat plot, which aims to be the most dangerous episode of the crime of fragmenting and dominating the Arab nation. Rajjuh said that fabricating the war in the Palestinian camps in Lebanon was intended to cover the new plot. This attempt failed thanks to efforts that culminated in the Damascus agreement, which is currently being implemented to restore unity to the national ranks in the Lebanese arena.

Regarding the call for an Arab summit, the information minister said: We in Syria support any meeting which achieves a minimum level of Arab solidarity which stops the colonialist-imperialist- Zionist tide. However, we do not support any summit meeting which attempts to cover a plot aimed at liquidating the Palestine question.

Rajjuh praised the stands of the Arab community abroad and stressed that every Syrian delegation is an ambassador for its country, representing the homeland and reflecting the ethics personified by Hafiz al-Asad through his national and pan-Arab stands.

The head of the Arab-U.S. Cultural Association delegation and its memebrs thanked the information minister for receiving them and for explaining and clarifying the latest developments in the Arab-Zionist conflict. They also affirmed their belief in Syria's causes and their commitment to Syria's objectives and their affiliation to it under the leadership of the great President Hafiz al-Asad.

'Intensive Contacts' Under Way Concerning Hijacking

TA241422 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1400 GMT 24 Jun 85

[Text] The United States and Israel have begun intensive contacts over the past 24 hours concerning the affair of the hijacked plane in Beirut. The contacts are being held between the leaders of the Israeli Embassy in Washington and officials in the White House and the U.S. State Department.

Peres Proposes Cooperation

TA250320 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0305 GMT 25 Jun 85

[Text] Prime Minister Shim'on Peres has proposed cooperation between Israel and the United States concerning the hijacked U.S. plane in Beirut to President Reagan. Our political correspondent Shim'on Schiffer reports that the prime minister's call indicates a change in Israel's policy in the matter.

Our Washington correspondent Razi Barqay has learned that the prime minister sent a letter to President Reagan expressing support for his uncompromising stand concerning the hijacking. Shim'on Peres wrote to Ronald Reagan that Israel is a partner in the matter.

Rabin Remarks on Hijacking Criticized in Knesset

TA241449 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1405 GMT 24 Jun 85

[Report by Knesset correspondent Sha'q Stav]

[Excerpt] Today's debate in the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee was in part devoted to the affair of the hijacked TWA airplane. The prime minister briefed the committee on the latest developments on the issue, the contacts being held, and the government's policy in the event of any developments. Due to the nature of the discussion, a heavy blackout was imposed on the details.

On the release of the 31 Shi'ite detainees, the prime minister said: This is a purely legal matter. They went to an appeals committee, which decided that they should be released. We did not approach the Americans on this issue, nor did we coordinate the release with them. We did, however, inform them of the decision.

Committee Chairman and Knesset Member [MK] Abba Eban said that Israel should remember that U.S. public opinion has been our asset for dozens of years. Every Israeli step, Eban said, should be taken with this in mind. MAPAM MK Victor Shemtov sharply criticized remarks made by Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin on the hijacking affair. According to Shemtov, Rabin spoke in tones opposite to those he should have used. Shemtov directed his remarks mainly at the position expressed by the defense minister according to which the hijacked plane is a U.S. problem and a U.S. problem alone. MK Yosi Sarid also criticized this remark by Rabin. Imagine, he said, if the Americans gave us such an answer at a time when Israel was in distress. Sarid added that we must tell Washington that if they reach the conclusion that there is no way to rescue the hostages other than a deal involving the release of detainees, then we would not oppose and would contribute our part. MK Ehud Olmert said that our emotional solidarity with the hostages had not been emphasized enough. He added that we must not tell the Americans: This is your problem.

Rabin on Hijacking, Amal

TA241737 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1605 GMT 24 Jun 85

[Text] Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin says that the TWA hijacking came at a bad time for Israel, both from the point of view of Israel's relations with the United States and from the point of view of Israel's relations with the Amal movement. Minister Rabin added that the threat of terrorism from Lebanon has not been eliminated, and may become even worse. Minister Rabin spoke at a seminar discussing events following the evacuation of Lebanon. The seminar was organized by the Dayan Center and the Tel Aviv University. Our Arab affairs correspondent Aharon Barne'a reports from there:

Good evening. As was just mentioned, the defense minister addressed himself to the TWA hijacking, saying it occurred at an inconvenient time for Israel from two points of view.

[Begin Rabin recording in midsentence] ...on the Israeli-U.S. level, and in my opinion also on the Israeli-Amal level. As far as we are concerned, the development was negative not only in view of the passengers on the plane, but also in view of the implications this incident has on the two levels I have just noted. This is also a test for Amal and Amal's leaders in the struggle against the radical elements. I am not drawing any conclusion here, but merely noting a fact. [End recording]

Minister Rabin said Israel is striving to arrive at some sort of coexistence with the Shi'ites in Lebanon, to reach de facto arrangements which will make possible peaceful life on both sides of the Israeli-Lebanese border. However, it is possible, Rabin said, that to reach this situation we will have to pass through a stage of confrontation. The terrorist threat in Lebanon, Rabin said, and the terrorist potential originating in Lebanon still exist and will continue to exist in the future.

As for Syria, Rabin said that, based on our experience to date, the Syrians have revealed clear signs of a desire to thin out their force in Lebanon. I do not know to what extent they will do so, but I will not be surprised if a considerable force is evacuated from Lebanon, Rabin said, emphasizing that meanwhile all sides are exercising caution in the wake of our redeployment.

Levi on Taking Initiative in Hijacking Affair

TA241346 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1331 GMT 24 Jun 85

[Text] Deputy Prime Minister David Levi has said that Israel must meet with the most senior echelon in the United States to coordinate actions against terrorism. Talking to our political correspondent Shim'on Schiffer, Minister Levi referred to the

affair of the hijacked aircraft in Beirut, saying that Israel cannot sit idly by and wait until others approach it. According to the deputy prime minister, events must not develop without Israel being in the picture, and Israel should take the initiative.

Levi Interviewed on Hijacking

TA241929 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1605 GMT 24 Jun 85

[Interview with Deputy Prime Minister David Levi conducted by political correspondent Shim'on Schiffer; time and place not given — recorded]

[Text] [Levi] Israel is a factor in the present hijacking-terrorist case. Israel cannot allow itself to sit idly by until or after it is approached. The factor of time, from the point of view of Israel's interests, is of crucial importance. In other words, incidents must not be allowed to take their course while we remain outside the picture. The first thing called for by virtue of our relations with the United States is joint action with the United States and also coordination of future moves with regard to the fight against terror. Israel should take the initiative on these two points.

[Schiffer] In referring to an Israeli initiative, will you recommend a unilateral release of the Shi'ite detainees held by Israel?

[Levi] You should not put it this way. In other words, you should not present matters as follows: Israel is the partner here, it is Israel which gives in to terrorism and releases detainees. Will this move definitely lead to the surrender of these madmen or the release of the hostages? This is not the way to look at things. There are details which we should discuss and decide on. There must be maximum coordination between Israel and the United States with regard to the results of any operation. What should be prevented, at all costs, is any mediation, since we must not introduce a third party between us and the United States. If there is a third party involved, we will find ourselves in an unfavorable position, and this will have undesirable implications. We must prevent any sort of mediation. We should definitely avoid UN mediation on the matter. Should this occur, we would become the sole party and any demand would then be a minimum one; God knows where we would get as a result. This should be prevented. However, we should avoid sitting idly by, believing that time will solve the problem. There is no vaccuum. Both known and unknown elements are playing a role here. We are also facing the danger that an Arab country will take part in developments here. It would be very dangerous if the greatest achievement of this hijacking is that of driving a wedge between Israel and the United States. Hence, Israel must take the initiative and I think we will act in this direction.

[Schiffer] To sum up your remarks, I think I notice a tone of criticism toward the attitude adopted up until the last 24 hours perhaps, according to which the Israeli statesmen would wait until the United States approached them.

[Levi] Under the current circumstances in the United States, we should not stand up and argue with the U.S. Administration publicly, nor should we criticize it. I think that by doing so we are not solving any problem, but instead we give the impression of critics who are not facing a common problem. Therefore, it is neither necessary, nor wise or logical, nor even beneficial for us to stand to one side and let matters take their own course, for us to remain uninvolved. It is likewise unwise to rise and criticize the U.S. Administration, to try to justify ourselves, or to bring about a situation in which Israeli-U.S. relations would suffer or be subject to suspicion, lack of mutual trust, or an inability to engage in a dialogue to coordinate matters and act jointly.

Peres Briefs Committee on Tabah, Hijacking

TA241231 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 24 Jun 85

[Text] The prime minister has told members of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee that in the absence of an agreement in principle concerning arbitration on the Tabah issue, he cannot even try to reach a compromise on the nature of the arbitration. If there is no compromise, relations with Egypt will deteriorate. He is not making threats, he said, but it is impossible to hold discussions without decisions and a decision must be reached. Mr Peres said that Egypt has proposed a scenario according to which Israel will announce its agreement to arbitration and compose the arbitration document. Then, at a summit conference where Israel announces its agreement to the formulation, Egypt will announce the ambassador's return to Tel Aviv.

On exchanges with Jordan, the prime minister said there has been no letup in the actions by Amman authorities to prevent terrorism against Israel. The government hopes to begin negotiations with Jordan when a Palestinian delegation that does not belong to the PLO is formed.

As for IDF activity within the security strip in southern Lebanon, Mr Peres said that everyone has agreed to permit IDF freedom to maneuver in the strip. The reference is to a functional [preceding word in English] presence, so that no hostile vacuum is created and Israel does not have to use its soldiers there.

Our correspondent 'Oded Ben-'Ami reports that the prime minister briefed the committee members on moves connected with the hijacked U.S. plane and the separation of the hostages in Beirut. Victor Shemtov of MAPAM said mistakes had been made in peoples' appearances over the U.S. media. Yosi Sarid of the Citizens Right Movement said it was inconceivable that the defense minister should preach to the Americans that this is their problem. What would happen, he asked, if, at a time of distress, the Americans were to tell us: That is your problem?

Elat Free-Trade Zone Decision To Apply to Tabah

TA241039 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 24 Jun 85 p 1

[Report by 'Aqiva Eldar and Shlomo Ma'oz]

[Excerpt] The Cabinet decision to ask the Knesset to approve the establishment of a free trade zone in Elat also refers to the Tabah area, whose sovereignty is being hotly disputed with Egypt.

Minister of Economics and Planning Gad Ya'aqobi, who was one of the initiators of the idea, told *HA'ARETZ* last night that the law the Knesset is to approve on the establishment of a free trade zone will also apply to Tabah, as the area is still under Isreli sovereignty and under the jurisdiction of the Leat Municipality.

Observers in Jerusalem expect a sharp Egyptian reaction against the law, because it constitutes the determination of faits accomplis in the field, on the eve of the talks on the future of the sensitive area south of Elat. However, it would not have been reasonable to set the Sonesta Hotel apart as an isolated island with value added tax being imposed on its guests, while the guests of nearby Elat hotels would be exempt from it.

Likud Divided on Shi'ite Detainees' Release

TA241955 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 24 Jun 85

[Text] Some of the Likud ministers expressed discontent with the decision to release the 31 Shi'ite detainees. Our political correspondent Yoram Ronen has learned that Ministers Arens and Sharon protested to the prime minister for having informed Secretary Shultz of the release before bringing the matter to the inner Cabinet or the government for approval. In the wake of the Likud ministers' demand, a special inner Cabinet meeting was held last night to discuss Israel's next moves.

Our correspondent adds that Vice Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir and Minister David Levi did not agree with the position of Ministers Sharon and Arens who oppose the release of the 'Atlit detainees before the release of the TWA hostages in Beirut. David Levi said this evening that Israel should initiate a joint action with the United States on the issue of the release of the hostages.

Preparations To Release More Shi'ites Under Way

TA250648 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 25 Jun 85 p 1

[Excerpt] Preparations are underway for the release of another group of several dozen Shi'ite detainees from the prison in which the Lebanese citizens, transferred from the Ansar Camp to Israel, are being held.

In an answer to a question posed by *HA'ARETZ*, knowledgeable sources confirmed that the IDF and the security forces have prepared a list of several dozen Shi'ites who can be released without any problems. The decision on to implement their release has been left to the government.

HA'ARETZ on Shi'ites' Release

TA241429 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 24 Jun 85 p 7

[Commentary by Yo'el Marcus: "Let Them Leave"]

[Text] There are grounds for advising the government — its leaders, its members, its confidants, its cliques — to stop pretending to be holier than thou over the affair of the hijacked U.S. plane and stop provoking U.S. public opinion. It would also be acting with great wisdom if, to further yesterday's decision to release 31 prisoners, it were to decide to release all the Ansar detainees now being held in 'Atlit. This is worth doing without delay, as long as we can do so of our own free will, as a gesture toward the United States, without it being regarded as blackmail and without it being considered as surrendering to U.S. pressure.

The situation is ironic: If the U.S. plane had not been hijacked, 50 percent of the Ansar-'Atlit detainees would already be back in their homes in Lebanon as these lines are written. The remaining 350 would have been released as soon as possible, in accordance with a governmental commitment, during the transfer to Israel of the Ansar camp, which would be done upon the conclusion of the withdrawal from southern Lebanon. In other words, had the TWA plane not been hijacked, the Ansar-'Atlit detainees would have been returned to Lebanon in accordance with the timetable decided on. So what now? Because their release might help the United States in its distress, we should go ahead and cause anger by not releasing them? Are we punishing the United States because it is in trouble? It is hard to understand where our common sense has gone.

It is true that it is not at all clear whether the release of the 756 detainees we are holding will really lead to a release of the plane and its passengers. The Americans also have no answer to this question, and of course they are, to a great extent, fumbling in the dark. But one thing is absolutely clear — by so doing we would rid ourselves of the pressure of U.S. public opinion, which is currently building up against us.

It may be claimed that the U.S. Administration's behavior on everything involving us in this affair is strange and perhaps unfair. They are not telling us just what they want of us. They are not saying what they want us to do, officially or through discreet channels. In unofficial contacts, too, they are taking the position that they, the Americans, will not negotiate with the hijackers, nor will they surrender to terrorist blackmail. Quietly, they are telling us what they say publicly: We will not ask any friend of ours to make concessions for us. At the same time, because Nabih Birri says that if the 'Atlit detainees are released, the plane will be released, the United States has turned us into the black sheep of the affair. All of a sudden everything is coming down on us. Every 15 minutes another senator phones the Israeli Ambassador in Washington and makes accusations about the muscles Israel is flexing at the expense of the U.S. hostages. If, heaven forbid, this affair ends in a disaster, the entire blame will be on our heads — all because of the detainees who were going to be released and whose release we halted because it could have helped the Americans. This is worse than stupidity, it is playing with fire.

Instead of provoking the United States with strange and contradictory statements, the government should have honored Washington's position that there is no negotiating with blackmailers and no surrender to blackmail. Therefore, Israel would do well not to enter into negotiations with the International Red Cross [IRC] or with the Swiss, because as soon as we conduct negotiations, we will suddenly be the main party in them, and then there may be new demands; who knows, perhaps another round of releasing sentenced prisoners and so on. We must continue with what we had intended to do before the U.S. plane was

hijacked — release the detainees, unconditionally, without negotiations, without the IRC, without the Swiss foreign minister, as U.S. public opinion is demanding of us.

If the Israeli move leads to the release of the U.S. plane, we will gain U.S. sympathy. We will have both preserved U.S. honor and not engaged in negotiations, nor given more than we were going to give in any case. And then both countries will be able to draw up together the lines for a common stand and war against terrorist blackmail. As opposed to this, if our gesture does not bring about the plane's release, we will at least know we have done our bit and then it will really be a U.S. problem. Then, with a clear conscience, we will be able to see how a superpower, which knows how to preach morality to others and speak from a great height, gets out of the complications and shows those who are smaller and weaker how to get out of such complications when relatives and human lives are involved.

It is difficult to understand why we insist on running into the kind of complications we should avoid, serious complications with the wrong partner and over the wrong issue, while we can extricate ourselves from this matter — not bit by bit, but simply by continuing our old policy, by doing what we intended to do before the plane was hijacked — by releasing the 'Atlit detainees.

Lebanese Airlines Official Released From Captivity

TA211121 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 21 Jun 85

[Text] The deputy president of Lebanon's national airline company returned to his home in Beirut, following 4 months of captivity in the hands of the terrorists. The man, Sami (Ghababi), was kidnapped in West Beirut and held in a special detention camp in the Lebanese Al-Biqa'. He was accidentaly released by pro-Syrian militiamen as his kidnappers transferred him from one location to another.

Sharon on Coordination To Fight Terrorism

TA241941 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 24 Jun 85

[Text] Minister Ari'el Sharon has called for a coordinated struggle by the free world against terrorism, through political, economic and, if need be, military means. In his opinion, coordination is most vital in this matter between the United States and Israel. Sharon said that the results of the Lebanese war would have been better had Washington understood that to fight terrorism, it should coordinate actions with Israel.

On the affair of the hostages abroad the TWA aircraft and the release of the Shi'ite detainees, Sharon declared there should be no capitulation to terrorism. Our correspondent Gabi Zohar reports that Minister Sharon made these remarks during a visit to Nahariyah.

Lubrani on Aid to Pro-Syrians in Lebanon

TA250756 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 25 Jun 85 p 2

[Report by Shefi Gabay]

[Text] Uri Lubrani, the coordinator of government activities in Lebanon, has said that the period when Israel regarded Lebanon from only one angle — that of the Christians — has passed. It is now aiming at a dialogue with all the elements and is even prepared to aid them when necessary, even if they are pro-Syrian.

Lubrani was speaking at a seminar on the topic "After the Evacuation of Lebanon," held in the Dayan Center for Middle Eastern and African Studies at Tel Aviv University. He said that despite the weakening of the Christians, there are still power foci among them that support coexistence with Israel.

He said the Americans are mistaken in concentrating their relations on the central administration in Lebanon, because in fact no such thing exists.

The Soviet Union has learned the game and is speaking with the leaders of the sects, thus guaranteeing itself a political status in that country.

PLO Group Claims Explosion in Jerusalem

NC241947 Paris AFP in English 1938 GMT 24 Jun 85

[Text] Jerusalem, June 24 (AFP) — A bomb exploded today in a bus station at Neve Ya'aqov, a North Jerusalem suburb in the occupied West Bank, seriously injuring an eight-year-old child, police said.

The blast was claimed in a telephone call to the AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE bureau here by a caller identifying himself as a member of Force 17, a Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) group operating in the West Bank.

Several Arabs were rounded up after the explosion, police said.

Military Sources Say No PLO Bases in Jordan

TA250759 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 25 Jun 85 p 1

[Text] Last night Israeli military sources confirmed that, to the best of their knowledge, there are no PLO military bases in Jordan. It appears that reports on this matter published late last week were absolutely incorrect, and the PLO is currently working in Amman on the political level only.

Furthermore, the Jordanian security authorities are continuing to foil any attempt by the PLO to execute military operations against Israel from Jordan.

ALGERIA

French Prime Minister Arrives in Algiers

LD241632 Algiers APS in English 1425 GMT 24 Jun 85

[Text] Algiers 24/6/85 (APS) — France's Prime Minister Laurent Fabius arrived here at 2 p.m. (local time).

Mr Fabius is accompanied by a high-level delegation composed notably of messrs Roland Dumas, external relations minister, town planning, housing and transport minister, Paul Quiles, and labour employment and training minister, Michel Delebarre.

In a statement made shortly after his arrival, the French prime minister voiced hope that his visit will buttress ties of friendship between the two countries.

Begins Talks With Brahimi

LD242022 Algiers Domestic Service in French 1830 GMT 24 Jun 85

[Excerpt] The French prime minister arrived in Algiers this afternoon on an official 2-day visit. Laurent Fabius, accompanied by the external relations, labor employment and professional training, urban affairs, housing, and transportation ministers was welcomed by Prime Minister Abdelhamid Brahimi, and other Algerian ministers.

The Algerian-French talks started slightly later with a Brahimi-Fabius tete-a-tete and were later expanded to include the members of the two delegations. Simultaneously, the transportation and urban planning, construction and housing ministers successively held talks with Paul Quiles, the French urban affairs, housing and transportation minister. M'hamed Nabi, professional training and labor minister, had talks with his French counterpart, Michel Delebarre. Laurent Fabius is to hold a news conference tomorrow morning before departing in the afternoon.

Malian President Traore Arrives in Algiers

AB241900 Paris AFP in French 1546 GMT 24 Jun 85

[Text] Algiers, 24 Jun (AFP) — President Moussa Traore of Mali arrived Monday afternoon in Algiers on a "friendly working visit" the duration of which was not specified. The Malian head of state, accompanied by his wife, was welcomed on arrival by Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid and his wife.

In the absence of any official indication, observers contend that the talks between the two heads of state would be centered on African issues and preparations for the next OAU summit which will be held in July in Addis Ababa. They will also have to examine bilateral cooperation and the situation in northwest Africa, especially in Western Sahara. It should be recalled that Mali has recognized the SDAR.

Finally, Moussa Traore and Chadli Bendjedid will also have to discuss ways of coordinating their two countries' efforts to cope with effects of the drought which has caused great losses in Mali. Thousands of Malians have found refuge in the extreme southern part of Algeria where they have been taken care of by Algerian authorities with the help of the World Food Program.

LIBYA

Al-Qadhdhafi Receives Moroccan King's Envoy, Message

LD212034 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland in Arabic 2015 GMT 21 Jun 85

[Text] The brother leader of the revolution this evening received brother Ahmed Guedira, personal envoy of King Hassan II of Morocco, who conveyed to him a message from King Hassan II.

Arab Leaders Respond Favorably to Unity Project

LD232043 Tripoli JANA in English 1805 GMT 23 Jun 85

[Text] Tripoli, 6 Shawal, 23 June, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY — The leader of the revolution received Major al-Khuwaylidi al-Humaydi and Dr. Mifti al-'Usta 'Umar, secretary of the General People's Congress and Dr. 'Ali 'Abd as-Salam al-Turayki, secretary of the People's Committee for the Foreign Liaison Bureau and Muhammad Abu al-Qasim al-Zuwayy, resident secretary of Jamahiriyah in Morocco who were recently entrusted by the leader of the revolution with the task of delivering letters to the Arab kings and heads of state on the project of Arab Unity which was prepared in the light of the thoughts put forward by the leader of the revolution in his letter concerning unity and liberation which he sent last year to the Arab monarchs and heads of state.

The special envoys of the leader of the revolution prepared comprehensive reports on their missions informing the leader of the replies of the Arab monarchs and heads of state which came as a confirmation of their acceptance in principle which the Arab leaders expressed last year. Major al-Khuwaylidi asserted in his report that King Fahd expressed his acceptance of the proposed project and his readiness to adopt it and to work for an Arab approval of it.

Furthermore, General Siwar al-Dhahab, president of the Provisional Military Council in Sudan, supported the ideas contained in the project and pointed out that Sudan would support any Arab initiative aimed at unity.

Dr. 'Ali al-Turayki reported that President Hafiz al-Asad of Syria expressed his country's acceptance of the project and expressed his readiness to appoint [words indistinct] experts to draw the complementary documents and projects of economical and technical institutions.

Also, Dr al-Turayki stressed that brothers in Oman, Jordan and Iraq welcomed the initiative of the leader of the revolution and expressed their readiness to work towards preparing the Arab climate for the success of this unionist initiative.

Dr. Miftah al-'Usta 'Umar reviewed the reaction of the Arab countries which he visited. The emir of Kuwait Jabir al-Ahmad al-Saba expressed the need [words indistinct] nation for an

initiative which would unite its efforts and [words indistinct] of its entity and reaffirmed that Kuwait would bless the project and said that the project will be studied and that the leader of the revolution will be informed of Kuwaits' proposals and remarks on the provisions of the project.

The emir of the State of Bahrain welcomed the initiative of the leader of the revolution and considered the project of unity a great action asserting the [words indistinct] the Arab nation for such a project. The emir of Bahrain went on to say that the (?first) positive reply to the project will come from his country.

In Qatar the emir of the State of Qatar asserted the importance of any Arab meeting which would unite the Arab nation and avert its disintegration. He said that Qatar will study the initiative of the leader of the revolution and inform him of its reply.

Shaykh Zayyid ibn Sultan Nuhayyan, president of the United Arab Emirates, emphasized that he gave his total blessing to the project and asked all his brothers in the region to follow suit.

In South Yemen, President 'Ali Nasir Muhammad affirmed his country's approval and appreciated the unity efforts exerted by the leader of the revolution. He further said that "South Yemen [word indistinct] with any United Arab action which secures the opposition of Zionism and imperialism.

President 'Ali 'Abdallah Saleh, president of the Yemen Arab Republic, expressed his support to the project and said "North Yemen will be the right column for the project. He further stressed his conviction of this initiative to an extent of declaring that with Jamahiriyah even if that was confined to the Jamahiriyah and the Yemen. [Sentence as received]

In Djibouti President Hassan Gouled applauded the unionist approach of the leader of the revolution and asserted that the contents of the project were compatible with his thoughts, hence he is with the project 100 percent.

President Siad Barre of Somalia expressed his approval of any unity action and lauded the project and promised to study it and submit his comments on its provisions.

The report of Muhammad Abu al-Qasim al-Zuwayy, resident secretary of Jamahiriyah in Morocco, pointed out that King Hassan II of Morocco blessed the project of Arab union and said that he would send his approval to the leader of the revolution. Also he asserted that he will adopt the project and call upon the Arab monarchs and heads of state to follow suit.

The king of Morocco reiterated that the project will put the Arab nation on the right track, in building its future and preserving its existence against all forms of aggression.

In Mauritania, the Mauritanian president welcomed the project of Arab union and asserted that his country will always be with any action of unity which enables the citizens of the Arab nation to carry on their civilized role and take up their appropriate positions amongst other nations. The Mauritanian president asserted to the leader's envoy that a positive reply will be sent to the leader of the revolution immediately after the project is studied by the Military Committee for National Salvation.

President Chadli Bendjedid of Algeria lauded the initiative of the leader of the revolution and asserted to his envoy that he will send a hand written letter containing the Algerian viewpoint as soon as the project is studied by the concerned authorities.

In Tunisia, Prime Minister Mohamed Mzali welcomed the initiatives of the leader of the revolution and asserted that the Arab union project responds to the aspirations. For the project is utterly compatible with the thinking of President Habib Bourguiba, he further assured the envoy of the leader that he will reply to the courageous and well intentioned initiative of the leader as soon as he studies the project with the Tunisian president on his return to the country.

Cultural Committee Urges Purge of 'Western Cultures'

LD241608 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic
1230 GMT 24 Jun 85

[Text] The General People's Committee for Information and Culture issued a statement today following its second meeting in which it announced that the burning of Western musical instruments is a signal for the intensification of the cultural revolution announced by the brother leader in his historic Zuwayrah speech. In its statement the committee stresses that the burning of these instruments stems from the eagerness to purge the Jamahiri society of false Western cultures, which history has proven to be amusements that stain the minds of youths, destroying their innovations and aspirations. The General People's Committee for Information and Culture stresses in its statement that it will continue to devote its efforts to implementing the resolutions of the masses of the basic people's conferences and to realizing their desire to create a Jamahiri information that serves the cause of the revolution and achieves its aims. The statement declares that the General People's Committee for Information and Culture has issued a series of decisions aimed at destroying the defunct cultures, at directing information toward the correct path, and at purging it from all its faults. Among these decisions are: 1) the burning of the Paltry and antimasses Egyptian films; 2) the burning of paltry foreign audio-visual tapes; 3) the burning of the stored books that contradict the theory of the Al-Fatih Revolution.

The General People's Committee for Information and Culture urges in the conclusion of its statement that the masses of the basic people's conferences cooperate with it in order to achieve these aims, which will help implement the resolutions of the masses of the basic people's conferences.

MAURITANIA

Moroccan Envoy Received by Head of State

AB241003 Nouakchott Domestic Service in French
0700 GMT 24 Jun 85

[Text] Dr Azzedine Laraki, the Moroccan minister of national education and professional training, left Nouakchott yesterday

afternoon after a visit lasting several hours in Mauritania. Dr Laraki arrived yesterday morning in Nouakchott where he was granted an audience by President Maaouyia Sid Ahmed Ould Taya. At the end of the audience, which took place in the presence of Hasni Ould Didi, the Mauritanian minister of national education, the Moroccan envoy said that he passed on an invitation from King Hassan II of Morocco to the Mauritanian leader to participate in the extraordinary Arab summit scheduled for July. The summit is being organized at the initiative of King Hassan II.

Dr Laraki also said that his talks with the Mauritanian leader enabled him to review current Arab issues. He added that both of them share the same views on all issues. He expressed satisfaction that Mauritania has agreed to take part in the summit.

MOROCCO

Former Premier Interviewed on Sahara, Spain, EEC

LD241439 Rabat Map in English 1208 GMT 24 Jun 85

[Text] Rabat, June 24. (MAP) — Mr. Maati Bouabid, former prime minister of Morocco and president of the biggest political party in Morocco the Constitutional Union (liberal) said that the solution of the Sahara question is dependent on the respect of Morocco's sovereignty and that this latter keeps the door open to any effort aiming at easing tension in the North West African region.

In an interview with the magazine *AL-MAJLIS* Mr. Bouabid said that Morocco is ready to participate in any meeting at the level of the five Maghrebian countries (Morocco Algeria Tunisia Libya and Mauritania) to ease tension in the region.

On the latest developments of the Palestinian question, Mr. Bouabid said the respect of the Palestinian people's rights is the basis of any solution for the setting up of an independent Palestinian state.

He condemned the war in the Palestinian refugee camps in Beirut and said that "those who claim that the solution to the Lebanese problem goes through the liquidation of the Palestinians are wrong and should keep in mind that the Palestinian question is essential to resolve all other problems".

On the future of Sebta and Melillia (two Moroccan northern towns still under Spanish rule) the president of the Constitutional Union party said that one of Morocco's objectives is to retrieve all its occupied areas and "we believe that once the rock of Gibraltar is recovered by Spain, the logical peaceful solution to the problem of Sebta and Melillia will be obvious as to the return of these two enclaves to Morocco".

On Morocco's relations with the European Economic Community (EEC) after the entry of Spain and Portugal Mr. Bouabid called on Europe to respect the agreement defining the cooperation framework between Morocco and the EEC. He added that Europe's interests in the region requires that the EEC takes into account the political meaning of every economic division especially that peace keeping in the Mediterranean basin constitutes collective responsibility. He added that Morocco's relations with the EEC are not only economic but also historic and cultural.

SUDAN

Siwar al-Dhahab Meets Egyptian Envoy Usamah al-Baz

JN241521 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1408 GMT 24 Jun 85

[Text] Khartoum, 24 Jun (SUNA) — General Siwar al-Dhahab, chairman of the Transitional Military Council, received a message from Egyptian President Muhammad Husni Mubarak during his meeting this evening with Dr Usamah al-Baz, first under secretary of the Egyptian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and director of President Mubarak's political affairs bureau. Dr al-Baz explained that the message is extremely fraternal and cordial and deals with certain matters of mutual cooopration and current issues in the region.

Dr al-Baz arrived in the country this afternoon.

Al-Baz Rejects Numayri Extradition

JN241923 [Editorial Report] Khartoum SUNA in Arabic at 1745 GMT on 24 June carries a badly garbled 700-word report on a statement to SUNA by Usamah al-Baz, Egyptian Foreign Ministry first under secretary. Al-Baz tells SUNA that his meeting today with General Siwar al-Dhahab dealt with the Arab situation in general, the Palestinians in Lebanon, and ways to contribute to solving the Palestinian problem, adding that the emergency Arab summit was not discussed.

Asked whether President Husni Mubarak's recent remarks about the extradition of former Sudanese President Ja'far Numayri have closed the door with regard to the extradition issue, Al-Baz says: "We do not close the door on contacts with our Sudnaese brothers, but are trying to convey our position to our Sudanese brothers: namely, that the issue should not be a subject of disucssion and that it is presented in order to affect the fateful relations between the two peoples." Al-Baz adds: "We do not dispute the Sudanese people's right to choose their own government and to call former officials to task because these are the Sudanese people's rights, which they exercise out of their own free will and political desire."

Al-Baz says that the Sudanese-Egyptian relations are strong and transcend politics, rulers, and regimes, adding: "But President Mubarak has upheld a certain Egyptian tradition — that Egypt refuses to hand over any political refugeee under any circumstances."

Siwar al-Dhahab Receives Moroccan Message

JN241503 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1429 GMT 24 Jun 85

[Text] Khartoum, 24 Jun (SUNA) — General 'Abd al-Rahman Muhammad Hasan Siwar al-Dhahab, chairman of the Transitional Military Council, has received King Hassan II's written message inviting Sudan to participate in the urgent Arab summit conference scheduled to be held in Morocco to study the con-

ditions of the Palestinian camps in Lebanon. The message was conveyed by Ahmed Bensouda, adviser to the Royal Cabinet, who arrived here last night.

Bensouda said that Siwar al-Dhahab expressed his welcome and readiness to lead his country's delegation to the conference. Bensouda also said that they discussed Arab and bilateral issues. He stressed Morocco's desire to strengthen and develop relations with Sudan.

The Moroccan envoy has carried similar messages to the leaders of the YAR, the PDRY, Djibouti, and Somalia.

Council Member on Relations With Ethiopia
JN241109 Khartoum SUNA in English 1027 GMT 24 Jun 85

[Text] Khartoum, Shawal 7, June 24, (SUNA) — Sudan and Ethiopia have agreed to open a new page in their bilateral relations based on mutual respect, noninterference in internal affairs and ending any hostile action across joint borders, announced TMC member Fadlallah Burmah Nasir.

Speaking to pressmen upon arrival here yesterday from a 3-day visit to Ethiopia in the company of Foreign Minister Ibrahim Taha Ayyoub, he described their visit as positive that has materialized all issue that have been agreed upon in the past few weeks.

Burmah said the Ethiopian government was keen to better its ties with Sudan and to implement all items that were agreed upon.

Asked on the attitude of the Ethiopian Government towards the southern question and the conduction of dialogue with Garang, he said the principle of noninterference requires that each side should solve its problems by itself unless he called for help from the other side.

The Southern question he said, would be solved by the Sudanese since it is a Sudanese matter and the Ethiopians are ready to give any sort of help in solving joint problems.

He announced that arrangements are being taken to enable ambassadors of both countries assume their posts in the near future.

Asked on the Eritrean question, he said it is an Ethiopian internal problem in the first place and Sudan is committed to the OAU charters that guaranteed the sovereignty of countries over their territories.

Housing Minister Receives DPRK Ambassador
JN241523 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1411 GMT 24 Jun 85

[Text] Khartoum, 24 Jun (SUNA) — Dr Amin Makki Madani, minister of construction and housing, received the DPRK ambassador here today. During the meeting, the minister presented a detailed explanation of the heavy legacy of the previous regime in terms of economic policy, the problem of the south, desertification, and famine. His excellency the ambassador also touched on construction projects that the DPRK [word indistinct], stressing that he will exert his utmost to strengthen relations between the two friendly peoples in the spheres of construction and housing in particular.

Official on Extraditing Numayri From Egypt
JN241811 Khartoum SUNA in English 1750 GMT 24 Jun 85

[Text] Khartoum, June 24 (SUNA) — Chairman of the committee entrusted to Investigate the leaders of May 69 military coup, 'Abd al-Wahhab Muhammad, said the committee would make all the required procedures for handing over the deposed president to the Government of Sudan so as to be subjected to the criminal interrogation because he was the leader of the coup. He added that the handing over would be in accordance with the criminals exchange accord which was signed between the Sudanese and Egyptian governments in 1902. Mr. Muhammad added that the committee hopes that the Egyptian Government be committed to the accord which is still effective.

He went on saying that the Egyptian Constituion gives the right of political asylum to those who are oppressed in their countries due to their struggle against [as received] liberties and interest of their people. He pointed out that Numayri had suppressed and tortured the Sudanese people, the matter which dropped from him the right of political asylum according to the Egyptian Constitution.

Attorney General on Charging Former Officials
EA211440 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 0430 GMT 21 Jun 85

[Text] In a memorandum endorsed by the Council of Ministers regarding clauses 19 and 20 of the Illegal Appropriation of Wealth Law of 1983, the attorney general stated that it is possible on this basis for charges to be filed against vice presidents, regional governors, members of the [SSU] Executive Bureau, ministers, ministers of state and deputy ministers of the old regime without informing the Transitional Military Council, in view of the fact they do not occupy these positions any longer.

Former Ministers of Finance, Agriculture Released
JN241602 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1435 GMT 24 Jun 85

[Text] Madani, 24 Jun (SUNA) — A final report will be presented to the head of the legal department of the Central Region immediately after the end of the interrogations of the former governor of the region and the minister of education and construction [title as received].

In another development, the former ministers of finance and agriculture in the region have been released at the recommendation of the investigation committee after signing a pledge not to leave the city of Madani without permission from competent authorities. The investigation committee in charge of interrogating the last group of political detainees in the region has interrogated all of the detainees and is currently making further investigations in preparation for issuing a final decision.

Council of Ministers Discusses Economic Issues

JN231845 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1716 GMT 23 Jun 85

[Text] Khartoum, 23 Jun (SUNA) — The Council of Ministers held a meeting today under Dr al-Jazuli Daf'allah to review a report by the prime minister on the outcome of Egyptian President Husni Mubarak's brief visit to Khartoum last Monday. The council also touched on the obstacles and difficulties that the masses are experiencing as a result of the high cost of living and the high prices of consumer goods and basic commodities in comparison with the limited income of the majority of citizens. The Council reviewed available ways to control prices as well as the current steps to revise the plan to improve wages and service conditions. The council confirmed its full commitment to apply the plan after reviewing technical measures.

The Council of Ministers entrusted a ministerial committee on the economic sector to study ways to reduce the prices of some basic commodities and to make specific recommendations to the Council in this regard. It also dealt with the role of the media organs during the past period in light of some negative phenomena in their performance. The Council stressed the principle of free media work under democracy.

Regarding the course of investigations of officials in the former regime, the Council listened to a detailed report by Attorney General 'Umar 'Abd al-'Ati. The report reviewed the results of the work by some investigative committees and steps to bring defendants to court as soon as possible. It also reviewed the circumstances that delayed some committees' investigations.

The Council of Ministers also listened to oral reports by the minister of culture and information and the minister of public service and labor on the visit of joint delegation from the Transitional Military Council and the Council of Ministers to the Upper Nile Region and the Bahr al-Ghazal Region as well as on the meetings that the delegation held with military and administrative officials. The security situation, the delegation's talks with political forces and trade unions, and the results of these talks regarding national issues and efforts to achieve stability were also discussed.

The Council of Ministers approved in principle the unconditional general amnesty draft law in Sudan presented by Samuel Aru, minister of irrigation and waterpower. It also approved in principle the attorney general's draft law amended in 1985. This draft law was presented by the attorney general.

The Council endorsed the memorandum presented by the minister of finance and economic planning regarding the minting of new coins on the 40th anniversary of the FAO and the convening of the ninth conference on forests in Mexico in 1985. The Council of Ministers will resume its meetings Wednesday morning.

Workers Union Officials Demand Assembly Seats

JN231755 Khartoum SUNA in English 1740 GMT 24 Jun 85

[Text] Khartoum, June 24 (SUNA) — The Executive Bureau of Sudan Workers Union demanded that some seats in the coming constituent Assembly shall be specialized for workers to make workers express their opinion. The union affirmed its rejection for the establishment of party for workers to avert exploiting trade union movement for the political purposes.

This came in the joint meeting held here today between the union's Executive Bureau and the political committee emanated from the Transitional Military Council (TMC) which was chaired by Transitional Military Council member and committee deputy chairman Major-General (PSC) [as received] Phabian Agang Lopu. In the meeting the union condemned those who demand the legislative powers to be transfered to the Cabinet and affirmed that TMC is the only legislative power.

TMC Committee Meets Islamic Front Leader

JN231909 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1738 GMT 23 Jun 85

[Text] Khartoum, 23 Jun (SUNA) — The political committee of the Transitional Military Council held a meeting with Hasan 'Abdallah al-Turabi, secretary general of the Islamic National Front, here this morning. A responsible source in the committee said that the meeting falls within the framework of efforts to crystallize national thought and discuss current issues of concern to citizens. He also pointed out that, based on unity of objective, unilateral and collective meetings with various parties, bodies, and trade unions or with their leaders will continue. The committee will welcome everybody who loves this country and wants to put forward his ideas.

TMC Member on Solving Southern Problem

JN231826 Khartoum SUNA in English 1727 GMT 23 Jun 85

[Text] Khartoum, June 24 (SUNA) — Member of the Transitional Military Council (TMC) Muhammad Tawfiq Khalil, who is also the chairman of the joint committee of TMC and the Council of Ministers of the joint committee of TMC and the Council of Ministers for solving the southern problem said that the TMC does not consider itself a guarantor on the southerners, but it intends to know the viewpoints of the southerners on the solving of the southern problem. Tawfiq, who was speaking in a meeting comprising the southerners in Khartoum and the committee members' called for convening of a conference to reach a solution for the problem.

Sudan Liberation Front on Contacts With Garang

JN211931 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1710 GMT 21 Jun 85

[Excerpt] Khartoum, 21 Jun (SUNA) — The Sudan Liberation Front asserts that the political, economic, and social system the front is calling for should be based on fraternity, equality, and forgiveness under the umbrella of federal democratic state. The front also asserts that the independence and immunity of judiciary are basic guarantees to protect rights and liberties.

In a statement issued today, the front says that the delegations going to Colonel John Garang represent only themselves. The front notes it is the duty of the trade unions and parties alliance to form a committee from all political parties and permanent figures to lay down democratic bases for dialogue. The statement

adds that some factions want to monopolize the right to direct the dialogue the way they see fit.

Praises Proposal on South

JN241446 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1407 GMT 24 Jun 85

[Text] Khartoum, 24 Jun (SUNA) — 'Uthman Ibrahim Ahmad al-Tawil, founder and leader of the Sudan Liberation Front [Jabhat Tahrir al-Sudan], has praised Prime Minister Dr al-Jazuli Daf'allah's proposal for solving the problem of the south. He said that the Front received Dr al-Jazuli's memorandum through its envoy, (Ukamnol Ashuayl), a member of the Front's political leadership.

In his statement today, Al-Tawil announced that, on the basis of Dr al-Jazuli's proposals, the Front had informed the prime minister's envoy of the Front's decision to allow ships, trains, and planes to enter the south and that the Front will halt military operations in order to secure the arrival of relief material to the Suthern Region.

Al-Tawil also stressed that the Front has authorized commanders of military areas to hold dialogue and contacts with local authorities in the Bahr al-Ghazal Region and the Upper Nile Region in order to find an appropriate formula for talks regarding fighters. He also cautioned against efforts to create a schism in national unity or to stain democracy. He added that the Front has realized that mad wars will harm the country and that political dialogue is the only current option.

Peace Conditions

JN211506 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1412 GMT 21 Jun 85

[Text] Khartoum, 21 Jun (SUNA) — In a statement to SUNA, 'Uthman Ahmad al-Tawil, leader and founder of the Sudan Liberation Front, has asserted that if the Transitional Government announced its readiness to accommodate the fighters of the Front, recruiting them for jobs in various areas and in the ranks of the regular forces in accordance with existing regulations, the Front will then announce the laying down of arms within 1 week and issue a statement to forces outside the border to return to the homeland immediately.

Al-Tawil said that the fighters number more than 30,000. He asserted the Front's ability to implement this decision, showing the importance of taking in the returning fighters to guarantee their future and to provide them with an honorable life. He said contacts with the Transitional Government to this effect have taken place and that contacts will continue to resolve this issue.

Answering a question by SUNA on the Islamic Shari'a laws and the Sudan Liberation Front's stand on them, Al-Tawil said that it is the Sudanese people who should define their constitution, and that the Front does not claim tutelage over the people in such a matter. He affirmed the Front's belief in democracy as the best way to resolve the issues of the homeland.

Radio SPLA Details 'Defectors' Joining SPLA

EA241653 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in Arabic 1330 GMT 24 Jun 85

[Excerpt] Lieutenant Colonel William Nyuan Bany, member of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army [SPLA] Supreme Command, member ofthe Sudanese People's Liberation Movement [SPLM] Executive Committee and commander of operations in the northern region in the Upper Nile administrative area, has announced that retired Captain John Kodi has joined the popular movement and the SPLA.

In another development, several defectors from the Sudanese Army and other regular forces joined the ranks of the popular movement and the SPLA in Bahr al-Ghazal administrative area, where the Rhino Battalion is stationed under the command of Staff Lieutenant Colonel Martin Makur Aleo.

Radio SPLA: Blue Nile Tribal Group Joins SPLM

EA242106 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 24 Jun 85

[Text] The official Sudanese People's Liberation Army-Sudanese People's Liberation Movement [SPLA-SPLM] spokesman has told RadioSPLA that a number of persons representing the Southern Blue Nile Organization, SBNO, that encompases the five tribes of (Ngathana), (Berta), (Hammad), Gumu and (Durun) have sent a special message to the SPLA-SPLM leader, Colonel Dr John Garang de Mabior.

Revealing the content of the message, the spokesman said that the authors had expressed their strong conviction that the diverse cultures and customs of the various nationalities comprising the Sudan should all be developed and promoted on an equal basis without undue preference for any particular nationality or nationalities.

They noted, however, with regret, that, contrary to this correct approach, the successive ruling minority clique regimes in Khartoum have been systematically trying to impose their own culture on the social and economically backward areas of the Sudan, thereby precipitating the serious problems which have long since troubled the country.

Praising the SPLA-SPLM as a national movement setting forth principles and objectives that could constitutue the sole basis for solution of the problems that stem from the plurality of nationalities in Sudan, the SBNO members who wrote the message declared their membership of the SPLA-SPLM.

In this respect it is worth mentioning that the SBNO recently sent (Malek Agar Airy), its secretary general, to meet the SPLA-SPLM leader, Col Dr John Garang de Mabior, and to communicate to him officially the decision of the SBNO as a whole to be integrated with the SPLA-SPLM.

TUNISIA

Foreign Minister Es-Sebsi on Talks in U.S.

LD221957 Kuwait KUNA in English 1650 GMT 22 Jun 85

[By Raphael Calis]

[Text] Washington, June 22 (KUNA) — Tunisia's Foreign Minister Beji Caid Es-Sebsi said here Saturday that he was not too optimistic that the current moves towards peace in the Middle East would lead to anything because of Israel's attitude towards peace.

The foreign minister, speaking in an interview with three Arab journalists, said the Arab countries have shown their willingness on several occasions and through several initiatives, including the Fes summit peace plan, that they wanted a peaceful solution of the Arab-Israeli conflict.

"But as we have seen, the Israelis have so far rejected every peace plan on the table, including the Fes plan and president Reagan's own peace initiative of Sept. 1, 1983," Es-Sebsi explained.

The foreign minister was speaking at the end of a working visit by President Habib Bourguiba during which the Tunisian leader met with President Reagan to discuss both bilateral and regional issues. Bourguiba will stay in Washington until June 26 conducting some medical tests at the Walter Reed hospital.

The discussions, among other things, focused on the overall Middle East process, the situation in the Maghreb, and other international issues.

Es-Sebsi expressed full satisfaction with the outcome of the talks in Washington with President Reagan, Secretary of State George Shultz, and Defense Secreary Caspar Weinberger, among others.

The Tunisian foreign minister stressed all through the interview that Tunisia has informed the Reagan administration that it is ready to back any peaceful solution that the Palestinians themselves would accept. "But the ball is now in the Israeli court," Es-Sebsi emphasized. He said the Arabs have clearly demonstrated their desire for a just and comprehensive peace settlement through the Arab Fes summit peace plan, "which was unanimously approved by all the Arab countries."

In addition, Es-Sebsi noted the PLO has since reached an agreement with Jordan on Feb 11 "and if that is the will of the Palestinian leadership, we are ready to back them in their stand. The PLO is the sole representative of the Palestinian people."

In reply to a question, the Tunisian foreign minister expressed optimism that current Moroccan efforts aimed at holding an emergency Arab summit conference to discuss the Palestinian question. [Sentence as received]. "The prospects appear to be good for the summit to take place," he said. But so far no date has yet been agreed upon.

Es-Sebsi, in reply to another question, said President Bourguiba did not ask for any increased economic or military aid from the United States during the current visit.

He noted that there were no outstanding problems between Tunisia and the U.S. He said economic and military aid issues have already been dealt with prior to the visit and are going on in accordance with agreements between the two countries.

On the military level, Es-Sebsi said, President Bourguiba and his accompanying delegation had only sought on this visit to bring about better concessionary terms to the arms purchases from the U.S. "We told them that the cost was too high for Tunisia in its present economic climate and we would like better concessionary rates," he said. "And they promised us to look into the matter to see how they can help us in this regard." A senior American official said last week that the Reagan administraiton will look "positively" at Tunisia's request without giving any details.

Es-Sebsi said that the situaiton in north Africa was discussed at length with Reagan administration officials, but he denied speculation that Tunisia was under pressure from the U.S. to break all links with neighboring Libya. "We are an independent country and no one tells us what to do," Es-Sebsi said. He also noted that the Tunisian Government, since it came to power, believes strongly in solving all outstanding problems in north Africa through negotiations and dialogue.

Asked if the Reagan Administration was still displeased with the merger agreement between Morocco and Libya, Es-Sebsi said the issue was not discussed.

He stressed that Tunisia, like all the Maghreb states, strongly believes in unitary measures in north Africa. "We in Tunisia do not oppose that accord," he stressed. "It does not in any way pose a threat to Tunisia."

He also spoke about the friendship and cooperation agreement between Tunisia and Morocco, stressing that this accord was not aimed against anyone but was meant to solve many of the outstanding problems between the two countries, including border differences.

"We wanted to make sure that this agreement was not interpreted as a new axis between Tunis and Algiers aimed against anyone. So we make it clear that it is open to all the other countries of the Maghreb to join it if they so chose," he said.

In reply to another question, Es-Sebsi said he was still optimistic that a summit conference will be held among the north African states. "There is agreement on the summit, but so far no time has been fixed," he said.

AL-SABAH, L'ACTION Criticize TWA Hijacking

LD210856 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 0600 GMT 21 Jun 85

[Excerpt] *AL-SABAH* comments on the issue of the hijacked American airliner from the moral point of view. It points out that this action increases Israeli freedom of action and makes the

Arabs appear as uncivilized and further lowers their credibility. It says the Lebanese friends, officials and militia leaders, must be told openly that what we are doing is not the correct direction and that we must direct our efforts to where they should be directed, to the liebration of the land and hitting at the forces hostile to us. We do not believe that there is in America a hostile people, rather that there is a people that should be won over as a friend; and this is not the way.

L'ACTION in its turn says that this operation, like the one before it, although beneficial at the level of propaganda and bringing quick benefit to its perpetrators, harms the reputation of the organization to which the pirates belong. This is so because sympathy is always with the innocent passengers, the hostages.

ETHIOPIA

Official Cites Trade Agreement With Australia

EA241221 Addis Ababa Domestic Service in Amharic 0900 GMT 24 Jun 85

[Text] Comrade Wolie Chekol, Workers Party of Ethiopia Central Committee member and foreign trade minister, today disclosed that trade and other joint economic cooperation agreements have, for the first time, been signed between revolutionary Ethiopia and Australia. Comrade Wolie disclosed this in a statement he made at Bole International Airport on arrival in Addis Ababa after completing a working visit to Australia at the head of 3-man delegation.

In his statement, Comrade Wolie said that until now there have been no trade relations or agreement of any kind between Australia and Ethiopia. He added that the agreement was reached following a discussion of relations between the two countries in the course of the current visit. On discussions held in other economic sectors, in addition to the trade agreement, in particular the agricultural sector, he said that wide-ranging discussions had been held on Australia's experience of producing crops with little rain, and the importation of seeds for such crops to Ethiopia, for which Australia is ready to cooperate.

Comrade Wolie said that discussions were also held on economic and technical cooperation, including the exchange of experts. Comrade Wolie said that the trade agreement will be implemented with effect from 1985.

UGANDA

Obote Delivers Speech to National Assembly

EA211620 Kampala Domestic Service in English 1208 GMT 20 Jun 85

[Budget Speech by Ugandan President Milton Obote to National Assembly in Kampala — live]

[Excerpts] Mr Speaker, I beg to move that [words indistinct] for the [word indistinct] and approval of [words indistinct] expenditure estimates for the fiscal year 1984-85, for the budgetary proposals for the fiscal year 1985-86 estimates of revenue and expenditure.

Mr Speaker, this government and parliament set out in 1981 on the road to rehabilitation, recovery, and development with only one sure factor. That sure factor was our determination to succeed. The determination to succeed was based on our zeal to make Uganda's newfound democracy work for the people of Uganda. Everything else, Mr Speaker, was either gloomy or dark.

Mr Speaker, after the general elections of December 1980, on assuming office this government pledged to stop the decline of the economy and put in pace a packet of policies and measures for rehabilitation, recovery, and development. Since 1981 the budget has been presented to the house, debated, discussed most heatedly, but generally with reason, understanding, and moderation. There has been no great difference between the two sides of the house on the (?strategy) of the policy measures. The main difference has been on details and in this regard the most prominent has been the decision of the government on (?profit taking).

There has been no difference on the fact that before first June 1981 the shilling was grossly overvalued. The challenge was what to do. Mr Speaker, in another capacity I have had the opportunity to inform the house that government monetary policies were formulated before any approach was made to the IMF. [Passage indistinct] population growth rate of 2.6 percent. This meant that the income per head was continuously increasing, leading to sustained improvement in the standard of living of our people. Sir, honorable members ought to know that in the 1960's the budgetary position and balance of payments was satisfactory and that a significant proportion of development expenditure was generated annually from revenue. Mr Speaker, that buoyant position was reversed in the 1970's.

When this house met for the first time and considered the first budget in June 1981, it was clear from the figures given to the house at that time that Uganda was heavily in debt with our major trading partners. Our credit rating had fallen to such a low level that no country or multinational organization was prepared or willing to extend Uganda any loan or enter into credit supply arrangements with Uganda. We inherited, Mr Speaker, no reserves at all and could not therefore place orders for imports or spare parts, raw materials and agricultural input. The economy was caught in deep-seated problems. I have, Mr Speaker, described this period from 1971 to 1979 as having been a social and a political tragedy and an economic diaster for all the people of Uganda. Those were the years of aimlessness, years of destruction, years of decline, and years of shame.

Mr Speaker, let me describe breifly the summary of the performance of the economy and the budget outcome for 1984-85. I report, Mr Speaker, with the greatest satisfaction, that in 1984 we achieved the highest GDP [gross domestic product] ever recorded. The figure is estimated today at 7.582 billion shillings, compared to the previous record peak of 7.542 billion shillings attained in 1972. In 1972 the people achieved, Mr Speaker, on account of investments put into the economy in the late 1960's. [as heard] But despite the attainment of that peak in 1972 further development was arrested and the buoyancy of the economy was reversed in the subsequent years, when Uganda, year after year, recorded negative growth in the economy until 1982 when we came to office.

Mr Speaker, the total gross domestic product increased by 5.8 percent in 1984 measured at [words indistinct]. The per capita income increased by 2.7 percent in 1984 over that of 1983. It is with this general background, Mr Speaker, that I now, as I have done in the past four budgets, report to the house the performance of the economy and its impact on the 1984-85 revenue and expenditure estimates.

I begin with the international situation. In November of last year, Mr Speaker, the OAU summit held in Addis Ababa considered with grave concern the economic plight of the member-states.

The summit agreed that its meeting this year should have as its major agenda, consideration of the economic situation in Africa. The drought situation now afflicting a number of African countries and which affected Uganda, though not virulently in 1984, is easy to understand, but difficult to overcome. The international economic situation [word indistinct] that developing countries in Africa are finding it more and more difficult to recover from the depression of recent years. The African economies are shackled by four sectors of international economic relations namely, external indebtedness, high interest rates, deteriorating terms of trade and mounting protectionism by the Western industrialized states.

Mr Speaker, development efforts of African states are increasingly being frustrated by heavy external debts. In the case of Uganda, for instance, a substantial proportion of our export earnings go into external debt repayments. Our external debt repayment now accounts for more than 50 percent of our total export earnings. It was through provident management of the economy during the past four budgets that Uganda has been able to improve upon its credit rating despite the heavy burden of debt repayment.

Mr Speaker, the steady increase in the interest rates on the international financial market has adversely affected Uganda and OAU member-states in two main ways. It has raised the cost of servicing external debts and has also discouraged such states from borrowing capital from the international money market for financing national development efforts and projects. Uganda, Mr Speaker, like all other developing countries in Africa continues to suffer from the impact of these deteriorating terms of trade. It is an unfortunate fact of international economic relations that we have to produce and export more and more of our primary commodities, such as coffee, only to end up by paying higher prices for the same number or quantity of foreign made goods as it was the case in the 1960's.

The desirable objective of promoting domestic economic development through international trade is seriously hampered by growing protectionism in the industrialized countries. Protectionism in developed countries is particularly frustrating development in countries having the capacity of manufacturing and processing industry. Protectionism reduces the volume of world trade, it affects growth in the more advanced developing countries with the result that the volume of resources which such advanced developing countries could transfer to such countries like Uganda, becomes smaller and smaller.

Mr Speaker, let me turn now to the domestic situation. I report that there was no program in the fiscal year now ending with the IMF, the International Monetary Fund. A Fund mission visited Uganda in August 1984 and held discussions with me, officials in the treasury, Bank of Uganda and officials of other ministries. A program was agreed to fund resources amounting to SDR [special drawing rights] 60 million. That program was subject to the approval of the IMF board. In the course of the year, Mr Speaker, our projections of balance payments position suggested that the economy would fare better without the funds resources than with a new program with the fund. Government, however, remains closely associated with the fund and will continue to have periodic consultations with the Fund.

On balance of payments, Mr Speaker, the general improvement in the domestic economy, as I indicated, reflected in the country's balance of payments position for 1984. The current account of balance of payments recorded a significant surplus of $107.1 million compared to a deficit of $72.3 million in 1983. The gains of current account would have been even higher in the overall balance of payments position had it not been for our coffee quota being constrained.

Mr Speaker, Uganda made commendable progress in reducing arrears from a level of $10 million on 1 July, 1984 to $72 million at the end of June 1985. Further, government had borrowed from abroad on a short-term basis to raise funds to pay farmers for their export crops. These loans matured during the year and had to be repaid. On account of the above factors the country recorded an overall balance of payment deficit of $52.6 million. The essential point to note, Mr Speaker, is that the country was able to record a substantial surplus on the current account, which underlines the recovery strength of our economy.

At the beginning of this year, Mr Speaker, the house debated the state of the economy. It was stated by government during the debate that government inherited in 1981 an inflation rate of 104 percent and reduced it in 1983-84 fiscal year to between 25 and 35 percent. In the first half of this fiscal year, however, Mr Speaker, the inflation rate began to rise. Some of the main causes of this temporary upsurge include the following: Inadequate rain in parts of Uganda, which created a shortage of foodstuffs in the urban markets; serious shortfalls in export earnings and import revenue which led to less availability of imported goods and services — all on account of Uganda's landlocked positions; cash payment in foreign currency of external arrears and IMF charges which reduced the amount of foreign exchange which could have been used for the importation of goods and services.

Mr Speaker, corrective measures were taken by government. There has been fruitful discussion with our neighbors which has resulted in increased transportation capacity for our exports and imports. Extra measures were taken to control public expenditure, including abolishing manually-operated accounts which were controlled by the ministry. The result of these measures now indicate that the inflation rate is slowing down.

Mr Speaker, the details of the 1984-85 budget out turn are given in the financial statement published today.

As in the previous years, it will be necessary to present before the house supplementary estimates [words indistinct]. There are several factors which created the need for extra funds. These factors can be broadly divided into three.

In the first place, honorable members will observe that the 1984-85 budget, which was presented to the house, assumed the exchange rate for the whole fiscal year of 330 shillings per U.S. dollar. This assumed rate went up beyond expectations and now stands at around 600 shillings per U.S. dollar. The change from 330 shillings per U.S. dollar to a higher rate increased the amount of shillings required for the foreign exchange component of the budget. This change caused considerable increases in the budgeted funds for external debt servicing, remittances to Uganda missions abroad, contributions to international organi-

zations, various purchases by ministries approved by parliament, including fuel, vehicles, and spares; medical treatment abroad; and student tuition and maintenance abroad.

Items which were underestimated -- The important ones include: The wage bill approved by parliament turned out to be lower than the actual amount paid to public employees [words indistinct] after the approval of higher rates of allowances were awarded to public officers; cost of maintenance and servicing of Uganda airlines increased; cost of maintenance and servicing of C-130 also increased; cost of servicing operations of some parastatal organizations increased, for example Kakira, Kilembe mines and Kinyara sugar works.

In the third place, Mr Speaker, in order to improve on our credit worthiness, government formulated a program for the reduction of external and domestic arrears. The economy began on 1 July with a stock of arrears amounting to, as I have said $110.24 million. In the course of the year, a further $91.60 million matured, giving a total of $201.92 million.

We have so far, Mr Speaker, repaid $120.3 million of these external arrears. The amount paid, however, does not include the IMF charges for which the local cover was provided by the treasury.

Mr Speaker, there are three points to note in the matter of the repayment of the arrears. The first is that the sum of $120.03 million spent to redeem external arrears became unavailable to the economy for the importation of goods and services. Secondly, in the 1984-85 budget, only 28 billion shillings was budgeted as local cover for repayment of the external arrears and maturities which were known at the time, but which later turned out to be an underestimate. Thirdly, the exchange rate escalated, thus increasing the amount of Uganda shillings required to purchase the amount of dollars I have given. In addition, Mr Speaker, to the external arrears, government also paid out 3.62 billion shillings to clear domestic arrears. This was mainly to redeem maturity of government stocks.

Mr Speaker, the economy, despite the international situation and some adverse factors at home, performed in 1984-85 fiscal year better than was expected. Sir, in 1984-85 recurrent revenue rose from 134 billion shillings to 156 billion shillings, giving a rise of 22 billion shillings. Development revenue budgeted at 53 billion shillings rose to 57 billion shillings. This rise, Mr Speaker, was realized because of the higher exchange rate and does not therefore represent a realization in dollar terms of the external grants in dollars and loans, which were to bring the budgeted shillings 53 billion. In dollar terms, Mr Speaker, the external grants and loans were budgeted at $160.6 million.

The amount disbursed during the year now ending is $110 million.

Mr Speaker, recurrent expenditure rose from 122 billion shillings to 192 billion shillings, a rise of 70 billion shillings. Development expenditure was budgeted at 81 billion shillings. The revised development expenditure is 86 billion shillings, an increase of 5 billion shillings. All the figures, Mr Speaker, of revenue and expenditure were influenced by the factors I have given to the house. The result has been a rise of overall deficit from 5.6 billion shillings to 62.3 billion shillings.

I now turn, Mr Speaker, to sectoral performance during the year (?just) ended. Mr Speaker, over the period 1980-84, there was a special increase in the marketed agricultural product of almost all export crops. The marketed coffee production was 135,000 tons, representing an increase of 3 percent over the period. Had it not been for the reduction in Uganda's coffee quota, this percentage increase would have been higher.

Cotton link production rose form 6,000 tons in 1980 to 12,000 tons in 1984, representing the enormous increase of 100 percent.

Production of tea rose from 1,500 tons in 1980 to 5,700 tons in 1984, representing once more the enormous increase of nearly 247 percent. Tobacco production rose form 400 tons in 1980 to 1,900 tons in 1984, an increase of 375 percent.

In some cases, Mr Speaker, like in the case of tea, the increase in output was accompanied by improvement in quality, a fact which has been indicated by the appearance of Uganda tea in the London Tea Auction Market in 1984 after an absence of 12 years. [Applause]

Increased production of food crops was no less remarkable, Mr Speaker. production of plantain, cereals, root crops, tubers, oil seeds all recorded higher levels during the fiscal year.

Mr Speaker, although the rehabilitation of industry has not been as speedy as the agricultural sector there has still been significant growth in the industrial sector. Honorable members know that we began the program rehabilitation of the industrial sector.

Honorable members know that we began the program rehabilitation of the industrial sector when that sector was at a very depressed stage, much worse than the agricultural sector. Thus, there was a general improvement in the production of food and beverages during the fiscal year. Milk production, for instance, increased from 14.4 million liters in 1983 to about 51 million liters in 1984, registering an increase of 28 percent. production of beer, soft drinks, and cigarettes are registered higher increases during 1984. The production of hoes doubled from 52,000 pieces in 1983 to 113,000 pieces in 1984.

On account, however, of frequent breakdowns in power supply and other difficulties, the two cement factories did not perform well. During the year, much work was done, Mr Speaker, at Lake Katwe salt project with the result that there is a preliminary report indicating a possible solution to the technical problems which resulted in the closure of the plant in 1979.

Mr Speaker, in the livestock and dairy subsector, improvements continue to be recorded. The cattle population increased from 4.8 million head in 1983 to 4.9 million head in 1984. Mr Speaker, this is a modest increase, but it represents a significant factor, namely the reversal of the trend from [word indistinct] to [word indistinct] and when the number of cattle slaughtered during the year is taken into account the growth recorded is a pointer to better days ahead.

Mr Speaker, the modest growth in the livestock and dairy subsector is evidence of the success of the policy and measures of disease control and increasing availability of animal drugs. The story, Mr Speaker, is the same in respect of goats, sheep, and poultry, all of which recorded an increasing population growth in 1984.

The fish landings, Mr Speaker, increased from 172,100 metric tons in 1983 to 212,200 metric tons in 1984.

Mr Speaker, the effort for the rehabilitation of the tourist industry is beginning to pay dividends. There has been considerable improvement in wildlife population, as well as in the control of poachers. In 1982, Mr Speaker, 10,000 tourists visited Uganda. This figure increased to 13,000 in 1983. The figure for 1984 is not yet complete, but it is expected that it will be higher than that of 1983.

Mr Speaker, despite the shortage of building materials a number of private hotels have been built in the country, especially in Kampala, mainly in response to the rising tourist trade and the accompanying demand for hotel accommodation. The rehabilitation of existing hotels, as well as the development of new facilities were undertaken during the year now ending.

Mr Speaker, in the energy sector the house will be pleased to note that the total power generation in 1984 was 614.4 million kwh, which represents a 19.2 percent increase over the 1983 level. As regards petrolium products, Mr Speaker, the fact that we do not now have queues at petrol stations is evidence that the country has achieved a balance between supply and demand for this (?purpose).

Mr Speaker, the transport and communications sector performed extremely well during the year now ending. The transport and communications sector has recorded the highest implementation ratio of the part mobilized for the recovery program. This was a ratio of 89.8 percent, representing a disbursement of $69.8 million out of the planned expenditure of $77.7 million. During the current year, Mr Speaker, $11.3 million was disbursed on road transport [words indistinct]. The house knows about the reconstruction of the Malaba-Jinja Road, which has continued. The house is aware that the first 82 km of Kampala-Masaka Road is almost complete.

The house if further aware that the Kampala city road project has started. Mr Speaker, as honorable members will see from the background to the budget, feasibility studies for a series of roads have been made and some of the funds required for the reconstruction of this roads have been mobilized.

Mr Speaker, sir, the number of registered imported vehicles increased by 36.8 percent from 3,722 in 1983 to 4,094 in 1984. The number of imported licensed public service vehicles [PSV], the PSV, increased by 8.3 percent from 2,109 in 1983 to 2,284 in 1984.

Mr Speaker, sir, this picture of good performance in the agricultural, industrial and transport sectors have had a very salutary effect on improvements in the social services sector.

Mr Speaker, I now turn to the 1985-86 budget forecast. Starting 1971 up to last year, the one word — single word — development had disappeared from the vocabulary of the management of the Uganda economy. The first three budgets implemented by this government were designed to make drastic structural adjustments in order to remove constraints in three key areas of the management of public finances and the subsequent growth of the economy. The three budgets, therefore, concentrated on exchange rates and trade policies, price and policies with bias towards (?production), policies designed to remove administrative constraints in the mobilization and management of resources for development.

The three budgets set such a firm platform that for the first time, Mr Speaker, it was possible last year for this house to debate a national plan which included development as an objective. In the concept of development, the 1984-85 budget should therefore be seen as a transition. It is with this in mind that the 1985-86 budget contains bold measures for us to begin to break out of the vicious circle of poverty. This vicious circle means that we are poor because we are unable to raise development capital. Because we are unable to raise development capital, we are unable to produce. Because we are unable to produce, we remain poor. [Laughter]

Mr Speaker, provision has been made in the 1985-86 budget for a fairly large-scale investment by government. In addition, and (?as per) the budget, substantial amounts of investment resources will be made available to the parastatals, the cooperative movement and the private sector. The proposed government budget for 1985-86 will also continue to emphasize the policy measures adopted since 1981, which measures have brought us to this stage of recovery.

The budget is therefore, Mr Speaker, a balance between the needs of the recurrent expenditure and those of development expenditure. The 1985-86 estimate of revenue published today in the financial statement is 321.58 billion shillings. The tax revenue is budgeted to raise 250.858 billion shillings. Appropriation-in-aid is budgeted to raise 7.080 billion shillings. Development revenue is budgeted to raise 1.200 billion shillings. Grants are budgeted at 23.800 billion shillings. External loans are budgeted at 48.120 billion shillings. The total estimate of expenditure, Mr Speaker, is budgeted at 349.194 billion shillings. Recurrent expenditure is budgeted at shillings 142.284 billion shillings. Statutory recurrent is budgeted at 56 billion shillings. Development is budgeted at 135.510 billion shillings and statutory development is budgeted at 4.400 billion shillings.

Mr Speaker, this total revenue and the total expenditure estimates give a deficit of 28.136 billion shillings. I propose to finance this gap from two sources. First, by borrowing from the banking system 20 billion shillings. And secondly, by borrowing from the nonbanking sources 8.136 billion shillings.

Mr Speaker, 1985-86 budget is designed to make us start on a realistic platform serious development projects. The policies and measures introduced in 1981, supported and sided by the international organizations and friendly countries, succeeded in transforming the economy towards recovery.

The pillars of support for the success of these policies and measures have been the people of Uganda, who have responded positively, particularly in the agricultural sector to increase production. [Applause] Mr Speaker, government has now decided on an improved system of crop finance for the main export crops. At the beginning of the crop year, funds will be made available, mainly through the commercial banks, for lending to the cooperative unions to enable the unions, through their societies, to pay the farmers promptly, either in cash or through bank accounts, for crops delivered. Unions and societies which have taken crops on credit during this fiscal year have recently been fully financed and directed to pay all farmers whose crops were taken on credit and to complete such payments by 30th June 1985.

Mr Speaker, sir, it remains government policy to review producer prices periodically. In pursuance of government policy, I announce that from Monday 24th June 1985 producer prices will be increased as follows:

Coffee, unhulled Robusta: from shillings 210 per kg to shillings 270 per kg; coffee Arabica (?parchment): from shillings 320 per kg to shillings 420 per kg.

Cotton [word indistinct]: from shillings 180 per kg to shillings 220 per kg; cotton (?br): from shillings 90 per kg to shillings 100 per kg.

Tea: from shillings 70 per kg to shillings 80 per kg.

Tobacco (?true) cured: from shillings 330 per kg to shillings 430 per kg; tobacco, fire-cured: from shillings 420 per kg to shillings 310 per kg [as heard]; (?barley) tobacco, air cured, the price will be 285 shillings per kg. Mr Speaker, this is a new type of tobacco, which is being promoted in Kigezi region. [Laughter]

Mr Speaker, in last years budget substantial increases of salaries and wages were announced. For the minimum wage earners, the Minimum Wage Act has been amended and a minimum wage board has been appointed. (?the board) has made an interim (?report), which the (?government) has accepted. It is hoped that the final report will be presented to government in the course of this year.

I have, Mr Speaker, considered the question of salaries. I propose that for all persons earning an income of less than 150,000 shillings per annum, such persons be given tax relief instead of another salary increase. I will in the successive proposals give details of this relief.

Mr Speaker, during the fiscal year, government will work with the banks to introduce a number of measures to encourage farmers, businessmen and other persons with income to deposit their money in the banks. Mr Speaker, during the next fiscal year, two additional credit schemes will be introduced. These will be credit guarantee scheme and development finance fund, both of which will have the objective of encouraging commercial banks to extend loans to farmers, persons, and companies engaged in productive activities in various sectors. The credit guarantee scheme is designed as an insurance by the Bank of Uganda. Commercial banks will be encouraged to extend loans to borrowers, which loans will be guaranteed by the banks of Uganda under the scheme. (?Please) [word indistinct], Mr Speaker, the commercial banks have been [word indistinct] to lend to borrowers who have no [words indistinct] even where such borrowers have viable projects. [Words indistinct] in such a way that any [words indistinct] development will be removed. Mr Speaker, the development finance (?part) is intended to encourage banks to extend medium and long-term loans to persons or companies engaged in production also, that if there is a definitive fund and guarantee scheme is that the development fund will be used to finance medium- and long-term development projects, whereas the guarantee scheme is for short-term or seasonal (?block) financing.

The medium term will be 5 to 10 years and the long term will be a period beyond 10 years. Mr Speaker, a number of persons and companies who would like to invest in long-term or medium-term projects cannot presently easily obtain a loan from the commercial banks. Here again the Bank of Uganda will provide the necessary funds to enable the commercial banks to invest in medium- and long-term financing of the proposed project. In both schemes, Mr Speaker, it will be [words indistinct] (?for donors) to continued funds to strengthen the scheme. To this effect, a bill to amend the Bank of Uganda Act will be be presented to the house during this term.

Mr Speaker, a further scheme likely to be introduced during the fiscal year is still being considered by government. This will be a scheme which will have the objective of extending credit to farmers, farmers organizations for agricultural production, processing, storage, marketing and for the development of agro-based sectors and other rural infrastructure. In this scheme, commercial banks, marketing boards and cooperative unions will [words indistinct] together with the Bank of Uganda and any external donor interested in the scheme.

Mr Speaker, on account of the projected expansion in the economy it has been decided to raise the capital base of all the banks and credit institutions. This decision takes into account the change in the value of the shilling since 1968 in the case of commercial banks. Bank of Uganda authorized capital will be raised, Mr Speaker, from 40 million shillings to 10 billion shillings. The paid-up capital will be raised from 20 million shillings to 4 billion shillings. The minimum paid-up capital of commercial banks, of any commercial bank, incorporated or to be incorporated in Uganda, will be raised from the present 20 million shillings to 1.5 billion shillings. Banks unable to pay immediately will be required to meet this requirement in three equal instalments over a 3-year period.

The minimum paid-up capital for credit institutions incorporated in Uganda will be raised from the present 2 million shillings to 500 million shillings. Credit institutions unable to pay immediately, like in the case of banks, will be required to meet this requirement in 3 equal installments over a 3-year period. A branch of a foreign bank not incorporated in Uganda will be required to bring the equivalent of 2 billion shillings and to invest the same in approved assets. Branches of credit institutions not incorporated in Uganda will be required to bring the equivalent of 0.6 billion shillings and invest the same in approved assets. A foreign bank may open a representative office in Uganda for purposes other than dealing with banking or credit institutional business. Such offices will be registered under the Company Act.

Mr Speaker, work on the revision of the recovery program has been completed. This program will be presented to the people of Uganda and the consultative group meeting during the course of this year.

Total investment amount expected to be disbursed for implementation of the project in the program is expected to be $279 million, of which $155.65 million has already been mobolized. The program of investment includes projects being undertaken by parastatals and projects to be undertaken by government departments.

Sir, in relations to this investment fund, Uganda commercial bank has funds for agricultural rehabilitation amounting to 70 million dollars. Imports from this fund have began to arrive in the country. The Uganda Commerical Bank also has small-scale industrial (?lines) of credit amounting to $5 million. Uganda Development Bank has a number of schemes for industry, livestock, agriculture and fisheries. Mr Speaker, also not included in the budget is the European currency unit of accounts of 125 million about which the EEC, under Lome III, has officially communicated to government. The government and office of the EEC representative in Kampala are now exchanging views on sectoral allocation of those funds.

Mr Speaker, sir, 5 years ago it was not possible for the people of Uganda to speak in terms of those fairly large scale development funds. The fact that the bulk of the funds will come from international organizations and friendly countries is a clear proof of the support of the basic monetary and fiscal policies by such institutions and countries. The challenge now is for us to increase our absorptive capacity both in the public and private sectors in order to utilize these funds expeditiously. We have been pressed (?about) our capacity, Mr Speaker, an improvement in the security situation. [Sentence as heard] The future is not only promising but is clearly conducive to the 1981 original goal of achieving a situation where the people of Uganda will work and raise their standard of living in a stable and secure environment.

Mr Speaker, I turn now to taxation proposals. Mr Speaker, the main objectives of the tax policy of 1985-86 fiscal year are four: to stimulate production, provide relief to tax payers, ensure adequate flow of revenue, and encourage exports and foreign investment. This is both a continuation and an expansion of the tax reforms initiated in 1981.

Income tax: Mr Speaker, in order to encourage foreign investment in Uganda I propose to reduce under schedule three of the income tax decree 1974 for nonresident persons to withholding tax rates of all categories. [Sentence as heard] I propose to levy a flat rate of 15 percent for all these categories under the schedule. In two cases of the category, the rate is reduced from 40 percent to 15 percent. The rate is reduced in one case from 30 percent to 15 percent. The rate in respect of earnings from interest remains unchanged at 15 percent.

Mr Speaker, I referred earlier to a new threshhold for individual income tax rate. As I already stated I propose to raise the base from the present 100,000 shillings to 150,000 shillings. I propose further, Mr Speaker, to give further relief to income tax payers by reducing the rates payable at the existing different income tax brackets. A new schedule will be found in the finance bill. I give one example. Under the existing rate, a person whose annual income is 500,000 shillings pays tax of 170,000 shillings. In the new rate now being proposed, the same person with the same income will pay only 70,000 shillings. This, Mr Speaker, as honorable members will observe is a substantial relief.

Mr Speaker reagrding customs duties, I propose to reduce import duty on salt from 20 percent to 10 percent; to suspend duty on cement for 1 year; to suspend duty on gypsum for another 1 year; to suspend duty on fluorspar also for another 1 year; to suspend again duty on steel and iron bars for 1 year; to reduce duty on bar soap for washing clothes and (?pots), I am advised it is called bibi ya ngombe [swahili: for the cow's wife] [prolonged laughter], bar soap for washing clothes from 30 percent to 20 percent; and reduce duty on sugar from 20 percent to 10 percent. I propose to reduce duty on imported beer from 250 to 200 percent.

Mr Speaker, I propose to reduce customs duty on buses and passenger vehicles of 30 seats or more from 20 percent to 15 percent. I propose, Mr Speaker, to reduce on passenger vehicles of under 30 seats registered as PSV — public service vehicles — from 40 to 30 percent. However, the importer will first pay the duty [laughter] and after registering the vehicle can then find the reimbursement. I propose to reduce duty on motor vehicles for the transport of goods, raw materials of carrying capacity of less than 3 tons, such as pickups, reduce duty on motor vehicles for the transport of goods and materials of carrying capacity of not less than 3 tons, such as lorries and tippers, from 20 percent to 15 percent.

I propose, Mr Speaker, to increase customs duty on textile fabrics — bleached, printed or dyed — from 30 percent to 40 percent. This, Mr Speaker, is to protect our local textile industry. I propose, Mr Speaker to reduce duty on [word indistinct] paper from 30 percent to 10 percent: This paper is used for making packing bags for cement, maize and sugar and such commodities. I propose, Mr Speaker, to abolish duty on paper packs for milk. [Applause]

I propose, Mr Speaker, to suspend duty for 1 year on cycle cord fabric and loom (?state) lining and I propose to duty on (?bead) wire rings for 1 year. Mr Speaker, cycle cord fabric and loom (?state), as well as (?bead) wire rings are raw materials for manufacturing of bicycle tires. We have a young company that has set up a plant for the manufacture of bicycle tires. This is to protect such companies.

Excise duty: Mr Speaker, on exercise duty I have only one proposal to make. I propose to suspend excise duty on locally manufactured sugar 1 year. Here is the [word indistinct], Mr Speaker, I propose to reduce sales tax on locally manufactured edible cooking oil from 70 percent to 40 percent. I propose to reduce sales tax on hessian cloth from 110 percent to 40 percent. Mr Speaker, this reduction is to bring tax on this item in line with the rate of sales tax on gunny gabs. I propose to suspend for another year sales tax on locally manufactured sugar. Mr Speaker, on export duty, I propose to introduce export duty on hides and skins. The rate proposed is 5 percent of the average FOB price.

Licenses: Mr Speaker, on licences I propose to increase the fee for renewing banking licences from the present 5,000 shillings to 500,000 shillings. I propose to increase fees for renewing credit institution licences from the present 3,000 to 300,000 shillings: to increase fees for renewing insurance company licences from the present 20,000 shillings to 350,000 shillings. Mr Speaker, during 1984/85 fiscal year revenue collectors undertook training, which enhanced their efficiency. The Ministry of Finance has also received technical assistance in equipment and personnel. It is expected that with the efficiency of tax collectors and assistance received, tax collection efforts indeed will generate more revenue at the existing rates. As a result of the measures I have announced, Mr Speaker, I expect to raise additional revenue of 63 billion shillings.

I now turn, Mr Speaker to exports and investment incentives. It is government policy, Mr Speaker, to promote a diversification of exports. There is a great potential in the nontraditional export crops, such as sim sim [sesame], maize, beans, bananas, pineapples, and fish. I propose to introduce appropriate incentives to encourage Ungandans to increase the volume of exports of such commodities. I propose to allow every exporter of these nontraditional crops to retain 15 percent of their foreign exchange proceeds. [Applause] This scheme will apply to all exporters of nontraditional commodities. The amount retained by the exporters will have to be brought into Uganda and banked in an external account in a bank of the exporter's choice. The exporter will be free to use this money to buy raw materials, to expand his business and settle up matters as he may decide. [Applause] Mr Speaker, it will continue to be government policy to levy no export tax on nontraditional export crops. The details of these arrangements will be announced later.

Mr Speaker, sir, again in order to encourage foreign investors to make further investments in Uganda, I propose to extend the scope of the Foreign Investment Act, to cover service industries, such as tourism and housing corporations. Mr Speaker, the finance bill will include technical amendments to the various tax laws, income tax decree of 1974, the customs tariff act of 1970, the finance decree of 1972 and the sales tax act of 1970.

Mr Speaker, except for the licenses and possibly on hides and skins, the house will observe that there are no new taxation measures and that Ugandans will not be required to pay higher taxes in the coming fiscal year. Reduction and suspension of tax rates have been adopted in order to encourage taxpayers to meet their tax obligations, to stimulate production and, judging from the increased economic activities, to collect more taxes at lower rates.

Mr Speaker, all these taxes and heads of revenue and expenditure have been estimated at the exchange rate of 600 shillings per U.S. dollar. It will be necessary therefore for the Bank of Uganda and the Advisory Board of Trade to issue new regulations to guide importers. Importers will be encouraged to make arrangements with their suppliers for suppliers credit. The Bank of Uganda will establish a (?fitting) fund to meet payments when such credits mature.

GHANA

Trade Secretary Receives Malian Trade Delegation

AB241923 Accra Domestic Service in English
1800 GMT 24 Jun 85

[Text] The secretary for trade, Mr Ben Caiquo, has said that harsh economic and climatic conditions should not be a barrier to cooperation between Ghana and Mali. He observed that trade between the two countries has declined as a result of unfavorable climatic conditions. The secretary, who was speaking in Accra today during a call on him by the Malian trade delegation, said there is need for the mobilization of resources of the two countries to salvage their economies. He emphasized that it is necessary to reverse the declining trade between Ghana and Mali, since both countries belong to the ECOWAS. Mr Caiquo stressed that Ghana is committed to inter-African trade and is therefore prepared to revive good trading relations that existed between the two countries.

Mr Bouraima Diallo of the office of stabilization and regulation of prices in Mali, who is leading the delegation, said its main objective is to follow up the deliberations of previous meetings held with its Ghanaian counterpart on trade matters. Mr Diallo reaffirmed the desire of his country to increase trade relations with Ghana.

TIMES Discusses Libya's Support, Friendship

AB240947 Accra Domestic Service in English
0700 GMT 24 Jun 85

[From the press review]

[Text] Writing under the heading: Genuine Friends, the *GHANAIAN TIMES* says the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah, undeterred by enemy insults and lies, has continued to extend its hand of support to the revolutionary process and friendship to the people of Ghana. The records show that apart from its help to solve some of the immediate and short-term difficulties which face the strengthening of the revolution, the Jamahiriyah has also offered aid for some of our long-term development programs. Last Wednesday for example, says the *TIMES*, a large-scale Ghana-Libya farms project was inaugurated. The $31 million project is planned to cover 7,560 hectares out of which 3,730 hectares will be irrigated. Maize, groundnuts and other crops have already been planted on the first phase of the farm.

The *TIMES* notes that the project is significant in two respects. It underscores the kind of aid that provides employment for a large number of unskilled rural people. It also gives further evidence of the Jamahiriyah's African development-aid policy for which the Libyan Government has been spending millions of dollars in free aid to African countries. The paper also submits that the project is significant in drawing attention to the feasibility of greater inter-and intra-African economic cooperation on the basis of finding as much African solution of African problems as possible. Ghana's revolution, says the *TIMES*, does not seek enemies but friends which like Libya base their cooperation on assistance acts to move steadily toward a goal of true economic liberation and independence.

Soviet Women's Delegation Begins Visit

AB211439 Accra Domestic Service in English
1300 GMT 21 Jun 85

[Text] The Soviet Women's Committee has offered 10 scholarships to Ghanaian women for 6-year courses in medicine, economics, librarianship, and other professional studies in the Soviet Union. Five of them have already been admitted to higher institutions in the Soviet Union.

This was announced in Accra by Mrs Albina Datsenko, a member of the Soviet Women's Committee now visiting the country. Speaking at a peace night organized by the Ghana Peace and Solidarity Council, she said although the practice of awarding scholarships to the youth in Third World countries has been going on for some time now, the Soviet Women's Committee has turned to Ghanaian women to foster peace, understanding, and unity between Ghana and the Soviet Union. Mrs Datsenko gave the assurance that the awards will be an annual affair, adding that the number of scholarships can be increased if the women's associations ask for more. The leader of the delegation, Mrs Nina (Klavina), urged Ghanaian women to work to maintain mutual understanding between women organizations the world over. She emphasized that Soviet and Ghanaian women have identical problems and should help solve them to preserve peace. Mrs (Klavina) declared: When we have peace, we shall achieve great progress for mankind and solidarity between peoples. She appealed to all to work toward this objective at the forthcoming world festival of youth and students in Moscow.

The national president of the Ghana Peace and Solidarity Council, Dr Victor Agadzi, assured them of the readiness of the Soviet-Trained Graduates Association to help fight hunger, poverty, squalor, and other factors militating against the country's progress. He spoke against the present build-up of armament by the superpowers and called for an end to the arms race. Dr Agadzi urged all peace-loving people to help the blacks in South Africa and all other oppressed peoples to achieve their freedom.

LIBERIA

Cabinet Meeting Reviews National Budget, Economy

AB272224 Monrovia Radio ELWA in English
2000 GMT 24 Jun 85

[Text] The Government of Liberia has declared that it will not impose any additional financial burden on the Liberian people as recommended by international monetary agencies to solve its economic problems. Dan Brown of our staff reports:

[Begin recording] The declaration was made today when the cabinet, headed by the head of state, Commander in Chief Samuel Kanyon Doe, met at the executive mansion and discussed the budget and the economy. It was also resolved at the cabinet meeting, that with the big economic (?shake-up), it was very necessary for Liberians to mobilize their (?resources) to ensure

that the economy is not further retarded. The financial difficulties which face the nation were pointed out while it was disclosed that the revenue collection was progressive [words indistinct] a fall in world prices for Liberia's major exports.

The national radio station special correspondent to the cabinet said inspite of all measures recommended by the IMF, which government has taken, including the cutting of government employees' salaries and the laying off of nonproductive civil servants, the economic situation is still stringent. It is expected that the discussion on the budget and the economy will continue. [End recording]

Action Party Vows To Seek Full Recognition
AB241818 Monrovia Radio ELWA in English
1710 GMT 24 Jun 85

[Text] The Liberian Action Party [LAP] says it is continuing with plans for full participation in the ensuing October and November political contest within the framework of the guidelines promulgated by the Special Elections Commission, SECOM.

In a release read at a news conference today by a member of LAP, Mrs Helen Johnson Salif, the party said its legal counsels have been instructed to proceed with the next round of the legal battle for full-fleged recognition of the party's certificated status. Mrs Salif said LAP takes consolation in the Supreme Court's expressed command to have the appeal forwarded to it for disposition. The party said contrary to reports carried by certain media in the country, they do not view the decision as putting the Liberian Action Party out of the political race. At most, said LAP, the decision has only served to rejuvenate and recommit LAP to the task ahead. The party said the decision, as they understand it, only reverses the decision of the probate court judge in probating the political documents of the Liberian Action Party while the appeal taken by (S.K. Duen) and others awaited disposition by the Supreme Court.

LAP said the Supreme Court in its decision did not touch on the merits of the dismissals of the objections of (S.K. Duen) and others filed in the probate court against the probation and registration of their political documents.

The LAP release said the decision by the Supreme Court did not cancel or change the certification of LAP by the Special Elections Commission. According to the release, the Liberian Action Party says it remains a certificated party. In its decision last Friday, the People's Supreme Court declared null and void the ruling of the probate court (?admitting) the document of the proposed Liberian Action Party into probation and registration.

In another political development, the proposed United People's Party, UPP, is expected to be certificated tomorrow by the Special Elections Commission. According to a press release today quoted by the *FOOTPRINTS* newspaper, the certification follows the expiration last Friday of the period of 20 days for challenges on the partisan list of the UPP, after its publication.

MALI

Traore Leaves Bamako for Visit to Algiers
AB241606 Bamako Domestic Service in French
1500 GMT 24 Jun 85

[Text] The head of state, General Moussa Traore, and his wife left Bamako this morning for Algiers at the invitation of his brother and friend, President Chadli Bendjedid. Thus the president of the republic is paying a friendly visit to the sister republic of Algeria. He was seen off at the airport by members of the Central Executive Bureau, government, National Assembly, and the diplomatic and consular corps as well as official bodies.

Algeria Offers Planes To Transport Food
AB241924 Paris AFP in French 1818 GMT 24 Jun 85

[Text] Bamako, 24 Jun (AFP) — Three Hercules C-130 cargo aircraft have been placed at the disposal of the Malian Government by Algeria to transport cereals to the people affected by drought in northern Mali, it was officially announced on Monday in Bamako.

These three aircraft have since last Friday been building an air bridge between Mopti (center of the country), Goundam, and Timbuktu (the north).

This Algerian assistance is in response to the appeal made by the Malian authorities for aid to convey food items meant for the affected inhabitants in the sixth and seventh regions of Mali towards Timbuktu and Gao.

NIGERIA

Buhari Joins In Seeking U.S. Hostages' Release
AB241550 Lagos Domestic Service in English
1500 GMT 24 Jun 85

[Text] Nigeria has despatched special messages to the presidents of Egypt, Syria, and Lebanon seeking the release of the American citizens who are held hostage in Beirut. The head of the Federal Military Government, Major General Muhammadu Buhari, took the action in response to a request from the U.S. Government for Nigeria's support in securing the release of the hostages. Gen Buhari told the Syrian and Egyptian presidents to use their good offices to seek the release of the hostages in order to further pressurize Israel to set free all the Shi'ite prisoners being held by the Israeli authorities. The head of state also requested the president of Lebanon to view with sympathy and national honor the condition of the detained American airline passengers so as to ensure and secure their quick release.

In all the messages, Gen Buhari strongly condemned the Israeli disregard of the Geneva Convention when it moved the Shi'ite prisoners across the international boundary into Israel. The main demands of the captors of the American airline passengers is the release of all the Shi'ite prisoners in Israel.

Commission Presents Report on Gombe Riots

AB242114 Lagos Domestic Service in English
1800 GMT 24 Jun 85

[Text] A report of the commission of enquiry into Gombe religious disturbances in Bauchi State was today submitted to Governor Sani Sami. From Bauchi, correspondent Shehu Abdul reports:

[Begin recording] Receiving the report, the governor expressed government's gross disillusion over the poor response from the general public in Gombe towards the commission. This negative attitude, he maintained, was counterproductive and detrimental to the effective maintenance of law and order. The governor said to maintain the national security, people should voluntarily come forward and pass whatever information they have to security agents.

Brigadier Sami assured that the state government would implement all the recommendations found suitable with dispatch. He hoped that those to be taken up by the Federal Government would equally be treated. Brig Sami maintained that the state government would deal firmly with any person or group of persons found to be directly or indirectly aiding and abetting the outbreak of the disturbances, adding that suspected fanatics that were proved to have taken part in the disturbances would also be dealt with according to the law.

Earlier, submitting the report, the chairman of the commission, Justice Alex Dikke Okoye, said that his commission has received 77 exhibits, 69 witnesses, 29 memoranda, as well as physically visiting the Maitatsine fanatics' enclave in Pantani ward. He said the response of the people of Gombe division to the series of calls for memoranda could not be said to have been heart warming, especially since 90 percent of the witnesses from there had to be summoned by his commission to testify. Justice Okoye said in spite of this uncooperative attitude of the people of Gombe, at least his commission was able to dig deep in revealing the findings leading to the recommendations contained in the main report of this commission. [End recording]

PRC Delegation Arrives for Cooperation Meeting

AB241706 Lagos Domestic Service in English
1500 GMT 24 Jun 85

[Text] The Federal Government has assured China of its preparedness to implement its part of the Nigeria-China cooperation agreement with vigor. The head of state, Major General Muhammadu Buhari, made this known at Dodan Barracks today while receiving the Chinese minister of geology and mining [title as heard], Sun Daguang. Gen Buhari assured the Chinese delegation currently in the country for the Nigeria-China Joint Commission that the present administration was ready to expand areas of cooperation between their two countries. The head of state said that there are many areas in industry and agriculture in which Nigeria and China could cooperate for their mutual benefit. He stated that the Federal Government appreciated the way the Chinese Government had implemented the current agreements under the Nigeria and China cooperation accord.

Mr Sun Daguang, who was at the head of the delegation, said that Nigeria and China, being the biggest countries in Africa and Asia respectively, should cooperate to make joint ventures between developing countries meaningful. The minister remarked that Nigeria and China shared similar experiences in development to warrant cooperation between them.

Mr Sun Daguang is leading an 11-man Chinese delegation on a week-long official visit to Nigeria. The delegation will participate in the second meeting of the Nigerian-Chinese Joint Commission. The minister of national planning, Chief Michael Adigun, will lead the Nigerian team at the talks which begin tomorrow. The first meeting of the Nigerian-Chinese Joint Commission was held in Beijing in 1984.

SENEGAL

Diouf Welcomes Niger Head of State Kountche

AB241422 Dakar Domestic Service in French
1300 GMT 24 Jun 85

[Excerpt] The Niger head of state, General Seyni Kountche, arrived in Dakar this morning and was welcomed by President Abdou Diouf, by the speaker of the National Assembly, by the members of the cabinet and of the diplomatic corps, as well as by many other personalities.

Diouf, Kountche Hold Talks

AB242054 Niamey Domestic Service in French
1900 GMT 24 Jun 85

[Excerpts] President Seyni Kountche has been in Dakar, Senegal since this morning. The head of state, who arrived in Dakar at noon, was welcomed by his counterpart, Abdou Diouf of Senegal. President Seyni Kountche has held the first round of private talks with his Senegalese counterpart this afternoon during an intimate luncheon between the two heads of state.

According to the Senegalese press, General Kountche, the current president of the Permanent Interstate Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel, ICDCS, was welcomed by President Abdou Diouf in Namie [words indistinct] in the struggle against drought, the calamity that has been striking Niger and Senegal hard, will be at the center of talks between the two presidents, the Dakar daily newspaper *LE SOLEIL* said. The newspaper is also of the view that the two heads of state will discuss African issues such as the OAU, Chad, Western Sahara, southern Africa, and the ECOWAS and OAU summits. It must be said, in conclusion, that a dinner is being hosted this evening in honor of President Seyni Kountche by his counterpart Abdou Diouf.

PRC Donates Medicine, Medical Equipment

AB241650 Dakar Domestic Service in French
1300 GMT 24 Jun 85

[Excerpt] His Excellency Zhu Xiansong, PRC ambassador to our country, this morning delivered a donation of drugs and surgical

materials to Health Minister Thierno Ba. The ceremony took place at the Teranga Hotel in Dakar in the presence of our reporter Tsiga N'dour:

[N'dour] This new donation of drugs and medical equipment has a total weight of 10 tons. It signifies a new confirmation of the active commitment of China on the side of Senegal in the field of public health. To date, the PRC has sent five medical teams based in Zinguinchor. The Chinese ambassador emphasized that the success of the Chinese doctors who continue to improve upon their professional techniques is due to the great attention President Abdou Diouf pays to their needs. That is why Zhu Xiansong expressed satisfaction over the general cooperation between the People's Republic of China and Senegal.

[Begin Xiansong recording] China and Senegal have embarked upon a good path of cooperation in various fields, and as far as health is concerned, our cooperation is very fruitful. China has successively sent five medical missions to the service of the Senegalese people. Based in Zinguinchor, these Chinese doctors are working tirelessly and at the same time continue to improve upon their professional techniques. This has earned them praise from the general public. It is our belief that the results of our doctors is mainly due to the great attention given them by President Abdou Diouf and the support of the minister of public health and his ministry. I take this happy opportunity to express my sincere gratitude to them. I also thank them for the continued efforts being made to develop the bonds of friendship and cooperation between our two countries. Public health is one of the sectors to which the Government of Senegal attaches great importance and devotes much attention. We are sure that you will attain your objective of: health for all by the year 2000. In this effort, we are ready to make our contribution and give our collaboration. [End recording]

Public Health Minister Thierno Ba also expressed satisfaction over the cooperation of our country with the PRC. He expressed his gratitude for the results obtained by the Chinese doctors among the people of Casamance and the rural masses in general in the field of public health. The minister of public health announced on this occasion the creation of a training center for accupuncture.

ANGOLA

Dos Santos Leaves for Mozambique Celebrations

MB241318 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese 1200 GMT 24 Jun 85

[Text] Comrade Jose Eduardo dos Santos, chairman of the MPLA-Labor Party and president of the People's Republic of Angola, left Luanda this morning for Maputo, where he will attend tomorrow the celebrations of the 10th anniversary of independence of the People's Republic of Mozambique. President Jose Eduardo dos Santos is accompanied by Pedro Maria Tonha Pedale, minister of defense, and Alexandre Rodrigues Kito, minister of interior, as well as by some high-ranking officials from the presidency of the republic.

President dos Santos received in Luanda yesterday a message from Muhammadu Buhari, the Nigerian head of state, which was delivered by Tamunoemi David-West, Nigerian minister of petroleum and energy, who has been for some hours in a working visit to the People's Republic of Angola. The message is related to bilateral cooperation between the People's Republic of Angola and Nigeria.

Trade Minister Leaves for USSR, Bulgaria

MB211717 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese 1200 GMT 21 Jun 85

[Text] Adriano dos Santos Jr, minister of internal trade, left Angola yesterday for a visit to the Soviet Union and Bulgaria.

A report put out by ANGOP says that during his 8-day visit to Moscow, the minister of internal trade will sign a cooperation protocol with the Soviets in the field of consumer cooperatives. Adriano Jr will subsequently visit Sofia, capital of Bulgaria, where he will also sign a cooperation agreement between the two nations.

It is worth stressing the last year Moscow and Sofia were visited by Joaquim Guerreiro, deputy internal trade minister, and these were good prospects for the promotion of cooperation with our country. The internal trade minister's visit to those socialist states will lead to the ratification of applicable agreements and the implementation of cooperation which has been agreed upon.

Expansion of GDR Economic Links Discussed

MB170749 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese 1200 GMT 15 Jun 85

[Text] The People's Republic of Angola and the GDR have agreed to systematically expand their economic relations on the basis of long-term treaties. Concrete measures valid for the 1986-90 period were recently discussed in Berlin during the first session of the planning subcommission of the joint economic commission of the two countries. In Berlin, Antonio Henriques da Silva, the deputy planning minister of the People's Republic of Angola, pointed out that the present development of economic cooperation with the GDR constituted a solid base for the future broadening of cooperation between the two countries.

Some time back, a cooperation protocol in the fields of agriculture, trade, transport, energy, industry, and construction was signed in Uige between Provincial Commissioner Zeferino Estevao and GDR Ambassador to Angola Johannes Schoche. The signed protocol provides for the sending and supply to our country by the GDR of specialists and equipment for the fields covered by the accord, as well as vehicles and agricultural machinery for the socioeconomic development of the region.

LESOTHO

Government Protests to RSA Over Mokhehle Faction

MB241339 Maseru Domestic Service in English 1130 GMT 24 Jun 85

[Text] The government of Lesotho has protested to the Government of South Africa for allowing the leader of the Mokhehle faction of Basotholand Congress Party, Mr Ntsu Mokhehle, to launch attacks against Basotho from South African territory with a view to overthrowing the Government of Lesotho.

In a protest note to the Government of South Africa, the Lesotho Government states that there is conclusive evidence that Mr Ntsu Mokhehle is not only resident in South Africa, but has planned and executed acts of subversion against Lesotho from South African soil. According to information available to government, particularly of reports of a recent meeting between Mr Mokhehle and some highly placed members of the Lesotho clergy in the South African Bantustan Qwa Qwa, Mr Ntsu Mokhehle is planning to launch a new wave of acts terrorism and subversion against Lesotho from his bases is South Africa.

The note further states that the king's government finds it incomprehensible that the Government of South Africa persists in its denils that Mr Mokhehle is resident in South Africa and has used its soil as a springboard for actions of aggression against a neighboring state. This situation is all the more ironic now that South Africa has mounted raids on its neighbors on the pretext that they harbor hostile bases and is actively seeking the cooperation of all states in South Africa on mutual security and not using each other's territory as a base of attacks on others.

MOZAMBIQUE

Independence Anniversary Celebrated in Maputo

Machel Receives Award

MB240656 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 1030 GMT 24 Jun 85

[Report on the 23 June presentation of honors awards ceremony for party and government officials and citizens marking the 10th National Independence Anniversary in Maputo]

[Text][Begin Marcelino dos Santos recording] While celebrating the 10th national independence anniversary, the Mozambican

people, united from the Rovuma to the Maputo Rivers, hail their best sons, highly appreciate the extraordinary action that they have been carrying out for the liberation of the fatherland, peace, social progress, friendship and solidarity. Interpreting the profound sentiment of all the Mozambican people, the Standing Commission of the People's Assembly decided:

1. To award the Eduardo Mondlane First Degree order honors to his excellency the president of the republic, Marshal Samora Moises Machel, Marcelino dos Santos, Joaquim Alberto Chissano, Alberto Joaquim Chipande, Armando Emilio Guebuza, Jorge Rebelo, Mariano de Araujo Matshinhe, Sebastiao Marcos Mabote, Mario da Graca Machungo, Jacinto Soares Veloso, Jose Oscar Monteiro and Raimundo Pachinuapa.

2. To award the Eduardo Mondlane Second Degree Order honors to Armondo Panguene, Oswaldo Tazama, Sergio Vieira and Aquino de Braganca.

3. To award the Eduardo Mondlane Third Degree Order honors to (Valentim Naveta Ngalonga), Boavida Jose and (Lopes Moamba). [End recording]

That statement was made by Marcelino dos Santos, member of the political bureau of the Frelimo Party while reading resolutions of the Standing Commission of the People's Assembly on awards accorded to the chairman of the Frelimo Party, members of the political bureau of the Frelimo Party, the Standing Commission of the People's Assembly and government and citizens at about 1000 in the great hall of the Maputo City Executive Council Hall.

The Standing Commission of the People's assembly also decided to posthumously honor Major (Lucas Makwasse), (Lucas Kassongo) and (Bernardo Kapwepwe) with the 25 September Second Degree Order. By decision of the standing commission of the People's Assembly, (Cassimo Aquino), (Elija Caetano) and (Francisco Carlos Saranga) were honored with the Socialist Labor Award. The Macauela cultural group of the Maputo Urban Transport Company, (Mario Esteves Comuna) and other 36 nationals were given the Nachingwea Award. The Bagamoyo Award was given to Gabriel Simbine and Mauricio Luis. The First Class Valor and Patriotism Medal was awarded to (Constancia Pamela Ngwila), (Antonio Simbe), (Finiasse Novo Franca), (Pedro Luis Wetimane), (Paulo Jorge Liwata) and another 103 nationals. The Second Class Valor and Patriotism Medal was awarded to (Victoria Aguida), (Vorguineraria Amado), (Jose Rodrigues Calavete), (Julia Laura da Costa), (Jose Sandalo Vaiposse), (Mangone Roberto), (Jaime Pascoal Makongue), (Feliciana Mausse) and 465 nationals. The International Combatant Star Medal was awarded to 108 Mozambican workers. At the ceremony 109 Mozambican citizens were awarded the 15 years in the FPLM distinction.

These awards, which were not presented to day in the great hall of the Maputo City Executive Council Hall, will be presented soon by party and government officials at places and time to be announced shortly.

Machel Addresses Nation

MB241957 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 1900 GMT 24 Jun 85

[Text] The chairman of the Frelimo Party and president of the People's Republic of Mozambique has appealed to all Mozambicans to double their efforts, strengthen unity and renovate the sacred oath of defense of the fatherland, preservation of freedom, building the future of happiness and peace, and justice and brotherhood. The appeal is contained in the address to the nation made by President Samora Machel on the occasion of the 10th independence anniversary.

The Mozambican head of state said that the history of the first decade of our independence was the history of the struggle of the Mozambican people in defense of their independence and sovereignty. He then described the nature of our independence, stating that it was not a process of replacing a flag and a governor with another. The popular nature of our independence was evident right from the beginning with the popular gains, the recuperation of land, nationalizations and profound transformations that took place in the fields of justice, education, health, housing, and abolition of the trade of death.

He mentioned sabotage as a means of paralyzing our economy as well as armed aggression which initially came from the racist southern Rhodesia regime as a reaction of the colonial bourgeoisie against the popular gains.

Assessing the present phase, President Samora Machel described it as a difficult moment in our history in which we live a war situation and a period of serious economic problems. This is the time when the people are called upon to defend the fatherland against international imperialist conspiracy and its main elements, the armed banditry, the target of which is the lives of the people, economy and popular gains, said the Mozambican head of state.

President Samora Machel concluded his address to the nation by recalling the efforts of the Mozambicans who sacrificed their lives in the name of the sacred ideals of the fatherland and independence. He hailed all Mozambicans who, under difficult conditions, carry out the tasks entrusted to them by the people.

Dos Santos, Mugabe Arrive

MB241416 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 1400 GMT 24 Jun 85

[Text] Jose Eduardo dos Santos, president of the People's Republic of Angola, and Robert Mugabe, prime minister of Zimbabwe, have arrived in Maputo.

Delegations from the CSSR, the GDR, and Swaziland arrived in Maputo early this afternoon to attend the celebrations of Mozambique's 10th independence anniversary.

Kaunda, Masire, Nyerere Arrive

MB241517 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 1500 GMT 24 Jun 85

[Text] Jose Eduardo dos Santos, president of the People's Republic of Angola, Kenneth Kaunda, president of the republic of Zambia; Robert Mugabe, prime minister of Zimbabwe; Quett Masire, president of the Republic of Botswana, and Julius Nyerere, president of Tanzania and chairman of the OAU, have arrived in Maputo to attend the 25 June celebrations.

Cape Verde President Arrives

MB241222 Maputo in English to Southern Africa 1100 GMT 24 Jun 85

[Text] More African heads of state arriving in Maputo today to help Mozambicans celebrate 10 years of independence tomorrow. Already the president of Cape Verde, Aristides Ereira, is in Maputo, the first head of state to arrive in the Mozambican capital to take part in ceremonies marking Mozambique's 10th anniversary of independence. President Pereira is accompanied by his government's foreign minister, Silvino da Luz.

President Samora Machel and other senior government and Frelimo party officials were at the airport to receive President Pereira and his delegation.

The presidents of Botswana Quett Masire, of Angola Jose Eduardo dos Santos, of Tanzania Julius Nyerere, of Zambia Kenneth Kaunda, and the prime minister of Zimbabwe, Robert Mugabe, are all expected in Maputo later today to represent the Frontline States of southern Africa in Mozambique's independence celebrations.

PRC Ambassador on South African Regime

MB210847 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 0800 GMT 21 Jun 85

[Text] The prevailing security situation in Mozambique is due to the existence of apartheid in South Africa. This was stated by Chinese Ambassador Wang Hao to the national media at a press conference held in Maputo yesterday. The diplomat added that while such a regime is in power in that country, Mozambique and the whole of southern Africa will continue to face threats.

Finally, Ambassador Wang Hao disclosed that his country supports all measures and resolutions that the Mozambican Government has adopted in order to promote peace in the country and in southern Africa.

NAMIBIA

SWAPO's Nujoma Rules Out Contact With MPC

MB241759 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1733 GMT 24 Jun 85

[Text] London, June 24, SAPA — The SWAPO leader, Mr Sam Nujoma, today ruled out contact with the MPC government in SWA/Namibia, saying the new administration had been created by South Africa.

He told a news conference in London: "SWAPO is ready to talk with the South African Government — not with the MPC. Why should we talk with puppets?"

Mr Nujoma, visiting London after attending the UN Security Council meeting on SWA/Namibia in New York, said discussions between SWAPO and the MPC would be a waste of time.

Demanding the implementation of the UN plan for internationally supervised independence elections, he said in the "absence of the democratic process we have no alternative but to intensify the armed struggle."

Discusses Interim Government

MB250628 London BBC World Service in English 1515 GMT 24 Jun 85

[From the "Focus on Africa" program]

[Text] Namibia's new interim government made up of members of the South African-backed MPC is now a week old. Some of its members have expressed a wish to talk to the SWAPO liberation movement which is continuing a guerrilla war in the territory. Well, the general in command of the South-West African Territory Force claimed on this program last week to be winning the war, that SWAPO's strength had halved in the past 6 or 7 years, that there were only a couple of hundred guerrillas in Namibia at any one time, and the SWAPO is a spent force. But SWAPO's president, Sam Nujoma, is in London. Fiona Ledger asked him how he reacted to the general's claims.

[Begin recording] [Nujoma] That is a propaganda of the South Africans racists, they want to believe it that way themselves. SWAPO is a people's movement, it was founded inside the Namibia and its fighting combatants are recruited from its membership. Now, how many members of SWAPO are outside Namibia as well as inside Namibia?

[Ledger] I don't know. Can you tell me?

[Nujoma] There are thousands, and certainly so long as an inch of Namibian territory is occupied by the South African racists, the war of national liberation will continue with intensity.

[Ledger] How big, in fact, is the SWAPO fighting force at the moment, altogether?

[Nujoma] Well, SWAPO fights throughout Namibia today.

[Ledger] How many men on the run would you say?

[Nujoma] There are thousands of them. I don't need to say one, two, there, four, but they are in thousands and these are drawn from the membership of SWAPO.

[Ledger] (?There have been) allegations that they are moving backwards and forwards across the border when in fact there was

a written agreement last year between the Angolan and South African Governments that SWAPO's activities in southern Angola would be restricted. Does SWAPO still have bases in southern Angola then?

[Nujoma] That's not true, SWAPO does not operate from Angola.

[Ledger] The other allegation is that SWAPO fights alongside Angolan forces in the Angolan army which should make military sense, it would make logistical sense. They could be incorporated in the south of Angola with Angola's military forces.

[Nujoma] Angola is a sovereign state and Angola has a population of almost 10 to 11 million people. They do not need a (?single) SWAPO soldier.

[Ledger] Now we have got this new interim government sponsored by the South Africans in Namibia and a number of people in that government have said that they would be willing to talk to SWAPO. Are you willing to talk to any of them at all?

[Nujoma] SWAPO is ready to talk to the South African colonial regime in Namibia and not to the puppets they have created. The MPC is a creation of South Africa and therefore, in reality if South Africa would like to see a genuine negotiated settlement leading to free, fair and democratic elections in Namibia, they must talk to SWAPO.

[Ledger] So the MPC does represent a pretty broad spectrum of politicl views in Namibia, surely it is worth speaking to?

[Nujoma] Why then, if this is so, why then Botha has to lodge a this so-called interim government through proclamation and not through elections? [End recording]

SOUTH AFRICA

Bomb Blast Rocks Carleton Center in Johannesburg

MB241624 Johannesburg SAPA in English
1622 GMT 24 Jun 85

[Text] Johannesburg, June 24, SAPA — A blast rocked Johannesburg early this evening and first reports said there were injuries.

The blast occurred on the 15 floor of the Carlton Centre, a high-rise office block in the city centre area at 5.45pm.

A spokesman for the Public Relations division of the SA Police in Pretoria said damage was extensive.

He added it was not yet known what had caused the blast.

The blast was also confirmed by spokesmen for Johannesburg's Municipal Emergency Services.

Further on Explosion

MB241945 Johannesburg SAPA in English
1937 GMT 24 Jun 85

[Text] Johannesburg, June 24, SAPA — An explosion rocked the head office of one of the world's largest explosives outfits — AECI [African Explosives Chemical Industries] — in Johannesburg tonight, but caused no injuries and only "localised" damage.

The blast, apparently caused by a bomb planted in a passage on the 15th floor of the Carlton Centre, in the city centre, came a few minutes after 5.30pm, after most office workers had already left for home.

Colonel Fred Bull, police liaison officer for the Witwatersrand, said: "The explosion was localised to the passage of this floor.

"There was extensive damage to interior walls and ceiling but no fire and no injuries."

He added that the cause was still being investigated.

The floor is occupied by AECI Pty Ltd, which operates the two largest commercial explosives factories in the world, at Modderfontein and Somerset West.

At another of its plants, at Ballengeich near Newcastle in Natal, 600 workers have been on strike for three weeks. Asked if there appeared to be any connection between the strike and tonights blast, an AECI spokesman said: "There is no evidence to link the strike with the blast."

The question was put to him because there appears to be a new pattern emerging in ANC bomb attacks — linking some to strike action.

Earlier this year the head offices of Anglo American and Anglovaal in Johannesburg were hit by limpet mine blasts, a day after thousands of striking workers were fired at two mines owned by them.

Police Arrest 17 in Incidents of Unrest

MB241658 Johannesburg Television Service in English
1600 GMT 24 Jun 85

[Text] Seventeen people have been arrested in connected with various outbreaks of unrest around the country. The incidents involved stone throwing, arson, hand grenade, and petrol bomb attacks. In Kwathema on the East Rand, a black man was wounded and another arrested following the alleged petrol bombing of a black policeman's house. Two hand grenade attacks on private homes were reported in Tembisa.

Meanwhile, more than 100 people were left homeless when a fire destroyed 40 wood-and-iron shacks in Duncan Village near East London at the weekend. The refugees are presently being sheltered at the local civic center. The mayor of Gompa city, Mr Makatana, said that the fate of the destitute people will be finalized today.

Buthelezi Comments on Botha's Visit to KwaZulu

MB241853 Johannesburg Television in Afrikaans
1800 GMT 24 Jun 85

[Text] KwaZulu's Chief Minister Mangosuthu Buthelezi says his Legislative Assembly did not intend to be hostile when it urged the state president to postpone a planned visit to KwaZulu.

Chief Buthelezi said today in the Legislative Assembly that the request was that President Botha's visit should be postponed until the state president reaches a consensus with the KwaZulu Legislative Assembly on the future of all the people in South Africa.

The chief minister also said the Buthelezi Commission has in its recommendations deviated from the principle of one-man, one-vote and made provision for the principle of a veto right for minorities.

Transport Minister Discusses Segregated Trains

MB241053 Johannesburg SAPA in English
1019 GMT 24 Jun 85

[Text] Pretoria, June 24, SAPA — Although some first class coaches on inter-city and suburban trains will be retained for whites only, all other coaches will from September 1 no longer be segregated, the minister of transport, Mr Hendrik Schoeman, announced today.

He said separate travelling facilities for white and non-white passengers on trains were "a national heritage" of the original railway authorities and had continued since 1910. It was also still government policy.

There had been requests over the years to do away with racial separation on trains and, with the new constitutional dispensation, the political parties in the House of Representatives and the House of Delegates, as well as the Progressive Federal Party, had spoken against the present policy.

"The established right and wishes of white passengers ... to travel in coaches which are solely reserved for whites is reaffirmed," Mr Schoeman said.

The rights of other population groups for similar separate travelling facilities "is likewise affirmed" and they can ask for them any time, he said.

On suburban trains, from September 1 first class coaches for whites only will be marked, while unmarked first and third class coaches can be used by all population groups.

On inter-city trains, first and second class coaches for whites only will be marked and first, second and third will be unmarked and open to all.

At stations, all notice boards referring to non-whites will be removed and will be open to all population groups while toilets and waiting rooms for whites only will continue to be indicated by notice boards, Mr Schoeman said.

Commentary Discusses Rationale for SADF Raid

MB250820 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English
0500 GMT 25 Jun 85

[Commentary: "Hawks or Doves"]

[Text] There are signs of an unnecesary polarization in the country on its regional political stance. Unnecessary to the extent that it is based on false premises. It finds expression in the tags, hawks and doves, which are being heard more frequently since the Gaborone raid.

Ironically, spokesmen in both camps are acutely concerned about the effects of such incidents on the political process inside South Africa. One side, noting the diplomatic and other costs, speaks scathingly of the country shooting itself in the foot. The other maintains that the state cannot tolerate provocative challenges taking the form of support for movements that engage in revolutionary violence, and that diplomatic setbacks are unimportant in terms of national interests.

Arguments of this kind are invariably indecisive since both views contain part of the truth, but it is only a part. It cannot be disputed that when South Africa's security is threatened it must act to defend itself, and the most direct assault on the security of any country is that of organized violence aimed at overthrowing the state. Moreover, when a special target to the assault is the process of peaceful evolutionary reform as that of the ANC is, tough action to counter it is a necessary condition for achieving democratic political goals.

But national security is a multidimensional concept. There can be no doubt that South Africa security is affected to a greater or lesser degree by the attitudes and action adopted towards it by the major Western countries and its neighbors, that is, by mainly diplomatic considerations. And hostile attitudes and actions lead all too easily to obstructionism, even in respect of initiatives that are essential in the development of a just and stable order, no less important, ultimately, as a determinant of national security than military strength.

The question when South Africa is under attack is, not which of the two courses, that of a hawk or that of a dove, is the correct one. Rather, it is what mix of the two approaches is the most appropriate in the particular circumstances. Obviously, there will often be times when the demands of one run counter to those of the other. The question is, which response results in the greatest benefit for the least cost?

In the case of the Gaborone raid, it has become abundantly clear that the targets were in fact carefully selected. The raid was aimed at members of the ANC who were engaged in organizing terrorist activity in South Africa. There was evidence that in consort with the South African Communist Party, they were part of a group responsible for launching a new wave of attacks aimed at civilians, and especially at people directly or indirectly involved in politics.

Faced with such a threat, the country had to act, and when repeated diplomatic efforts failed to produce results, there was no reasonable alternative to the action taken. No doubt the cost

was substantial, but that of permitting a sharp escalation of the threat to the democratic political process would have been incomparably higher. While in other circumstances the national interest might well tip the scales the other way, on this occasion, it made the military option imperative.

STAR Editorial Views U.S. Statements on Namibia

MB211725 Johannesburg THE STAR in English 14 Jun 85 p 12

[Editorial "Namibian Serial"]

[Text] It becomes very lonely when even the United States starts snapping at South Africa in the Namibian arena. Predictably the Third World terriers closed in when Pretoria decided to go ahead with a temporary "internal solution," ostensibly to give Namibia some direction and to cut costs which have been such a burden on South African taxpayers. The Americans, whose necks have been on the chopping block while jollying South Africa towards an internationally acceptable settlement, have been embarrassed by the unilateral turn of events. No wonder they too attacked Pretoria so sharply in the Security Council.

There is no doubt that life would have been a lot simpler if this country had never been mandated to look after Namibia. Since the argument began with the United Nations over surrendering the guardianship a hostile army has been formed to contest the issue. Worse, there are fears that it would now join the ANC cause given the geographical freedom to do so. Countering their forays has brought South Africa into conflict with Angola, supported by the Cubans whose presence has become a major issue in seeking a solution. Recent developments seem to have militated against a Cuban pullout — and hence untying the Namibian knot. Rightly or wrongly, the "interim internal government" is seen as a signal that Pretoria, grown impatient, has despaired of a settlement. That is why the U.S. has been adding to the international cacophony.

SWAZILAND

Delegation Leaves for Maputo Celebrations

MB241713 Mbabane Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 24 Jun 85

[Text] A Swazi delegation made up of Prince Mboni; member of the Supreme Council of State, Liqoqo, Mr A.K. Hlophe; the minister for foreign affairs, Mr Mhambi Mnisi; and the acting chief of protocol, Mr J.M. Simelane, left the country today for Mozambique where they will attend that country's 10th anniversary of independence. In a brief interview with our reporter this afternoon, the principal secretary in the Ministry of foreign Affairs, Mr Zachariah Mkhonta said the delegation will return home on Wednesday this week.